

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
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4

As Engrossed: H2/20/23 H4/4/23

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1413

5 By: Representative Lundstrum
6 By: Senator J. English
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING LOTTERY-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIP
10 PROGRAMS; TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE
11 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, ARKANSAS WORKFORCE CHALLENGE
12 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, AND ARKANSAS CONCURRENT
13 CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO INCLUDE VOCATIONAL-
14 TECHNICAL SCHOOLS AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AS
15 APPROVED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION; AND FOR
16 OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

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20 TO AMEND THE LOTTERY-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIP
21 PROGRAMS TO INCLUDE VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL
22 SCHOOLS AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AS
23 APPROVED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
24 EDUCATION.

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26
27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

28
29 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-85-204(3), concerning the definition of
30 an "approved institution of higher education" under the Arkansas Academic
31 Challenge Scholarship Program, is amended to read as follows:

32 (3)(A) "Approved institution of higher education" means an
33 institution of higher education approved by the division to participate in
34 the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program and that is:

35 ~~(A)(i)~~ A state-supported two-year or four-year college or
36 university;



1 ~~(B)(ii)~~ A private, nonprofit two-year or four-year college
 2 or university with its primary headquarters located in Arkansas that is
 3 eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds; ~~or~~

4 ~~(G)(iii)~~ An approved school of nursing, subject to the
 5 provisions of § 6-85-213(c);

6 (iv)(a) A public or private vocational-technical school.

7 (b) A public or private vocational-technical
 8 school shall be bonded and insured; or

9 (v)(a) A public or private technical institute.

10 (b) A public or private technical institute
 11 shall be bonded and insured.

12 (B) An approved institution of higher education that is a
 13 private, nonprofit two-year or four-year college or university shall be
 14 eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds;

15
 16 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 85, Subchapter 2, is amended
 17 to add an additional section to read as follows:

18 6-85-222. Vocational-technical school and technical institute
 19 eligibility.

20 (a) An applicant for a scholarship under this subchapter who has
 21 applied to or is currently enrolled in a public or private vocational-
 22 technical school or a public or private technical institute shall, in
 23 addition to the relevant eligibility requirements under this subchapter, be
 24 accepted for admission in a program of study that leads to an associate
 25 degree or a certificate program in one (1) of the following high-demand
 26 fields:

27 (1) Industry;

28 (2) Health care; or

29 (3) Information technology.

30 (b) The Division of Higher Education shall file annually by November 1
 31 a report to the Legislative Council in the manner and format that the
 32 Legislative Council requires regarding:

33 (1) All state-supported student financial assistance awarded by
 34 the division under this section to students enrolled in vocational-technical
 35 schools and technical institutes; and

36 (2) The permissible high-demand fields under subsection (a) of

1 this section, including without limitation recommendations for adding or
 2 removing a high-demand field that is considered eligible for scholarship
 3 purposes under subsection (a) of this section.

4
 5 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-85-302(1), concerning the definition of
 6 an "approved institution of higher education" under the Arkansas Workforce
 7 Challenge Scholarship Program, is amended to read as follows:

8 (1)(A) "Approved institution of higher education" means an
 9 institution of higher education approved by the Division of Higher Education
 10 to participate in the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program and
 11 that is:

12 ~~(A)(i)~~ A state-supported two-year or four-year college or
 13 university; ~~or~~

14 ~~(B)(ii)~~ A private, nonprofit two-year or four-year college
 15 or university with its primary headquarters located in Arkansas that is
 16 eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds;

17 (iii)(a) A public or private vocational-technical school.

18 (b) A public or private vocational-technical
 19 school shall be bonded and insured; or

20 (iv)(a) A public or private technical institute.

21 (b) A public or private technical institute
 22 shall be bonded and insured.

23 (B) An approved institution of higher education that is a
 24 private, nonprofit two-year or four-year college or university shall be
 25 eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds;

26
 27 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-85-306 is amended to read as follows:
 28 6-85-306. Agreements between institutions.

29 An approved institution of higher education may enter into agreements
 30 with other institutions of higher education, ~~including without limitation~~
 31 ~~technical institutes,~~ to allow students enrolled in the approved institution
 32 of higher education under this subchapter to take courses at the other
 33 institutions of higher education.

34
 35 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 85, Subchapter 3, is amended
 36 to add an additional section to read as follows:

1 6-85-308. Report.

2 Annually by November 1, the Division of Higher Education shall report
 3 to the Legislative Council in the manner and format that the Legislative
 4 Council requires on all state-supported student financial assistance awarded
 5 by the division under this section to students enrolled in vocational-
 6 technical schools and technical institutes.

7
 8 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 6-85-402(1), concerning the definition of
 9 "approved institution of higher education" under the Arkansas Concurrent
 10 Challenge Scholarship Program, is amended to read as follows:

11 (1)~~(A)~~ "Approved institution of higher education" means an
 12 institution of higher education that:

13 ~~(A)(i)~~ Is approved by the Division of Higher Education to
 14 participate in the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program;

15 ~~(B)(ii)~~ Offers at least a fifty-percent discount on the
 16 tuition and mandatory fees of an endorsed concurrent enrollment course or
 17 certificate program to a student who is enrolled in an endorsed concurrent
 18 enrollment course or certificate program, unless other opportunities are
 19 provided that lower the tuition and mandatory fees below fifty percent (50%);
 20 and

21 ~~(C)(iii)~~ Is a:

22 ~~(i)(a)~~ State-supported two-year or four-year college
 23 or university; ~~or~~

24 ~~(ii)(b)~~ Private, nonprofit two-year or four-year
 25 college or university that has its primary headquarters located in Arkansas
 26 and that is eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds;

27 (c)(1) A public or private vocational-technical
 28 school.

29 (2) A public or private vocational-
 30 technical school shall be bonded and insured; or

31 (d)(1) A public or private technical
 32 institute.

33 (2) A public or private technical
 34 institute shall be bonded and insured.

35 (B) An approved institution of higher education that is a
 36 private, nonprofit two-year or four-year college or university shall be

1 eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds;
2

3 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 6-85-403(c), concerning the eligibility for
4 an award under the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program for a
5 student who is enrolled in a vocational center, is repealed.

6 ~~(e) A student whose enrollment in a vocational center is reimbursable~~
7 ~~under § 6-51-305 is not eligible for a scholarship under this subchapter.~~
8

9 SECTION 8. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 85, Subchapter 4, is amended
10 to add an additional section to read as follows:

11 6-85-407. Vocational-technical school and technical institute
12 eligibility – Report.

13 (a) An applicant for a scholarship under this subchapter who has
14 applied to or is currently enrolled in a public or private vocational-
15 technical school or a public or private technical institute shall, in
16 addition to the eligibility requirements under § 6-85-403, be accepted for
17 admission in a program of study that leads to an associate degree or a
18 certificate program in one (1) of the following high-demand fields:

19 (1) Industry;

20 (2) Health care; or

21 (3) Information technology.

22 (b) The Division of Higher Education shall file annually by November 1
23 a report to the Legislative Council in the manner and format that the
24 Legislative Council requires regarding:

25 (1) All state-supported student financial assistance awarded by
26 the division under this section to students enrolled in vocational-technical
27 schools and technical institutes; and

28 (2) The permissible high-demand fields under subsection (a) of
29 this section, including without limitation recommendations for adding or
30 removing a high-demand field that is considered eligible for scholarship
31 purposes under subsection (a) of this section.
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33 /s/Lundstrum
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