

1 State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H2/20/23 H4/5/23*

2 94th General Assembly

# A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2023

HOUSE BILL 1417

4

5 By: Representative Lundstrum

6 *By: Senator J. English*

7

8

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9

*AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE*

10

*SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO INCLUDE VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL*

11

*SCHOOLS AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AS APPROVED*

12

*INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION; TO ENSURE THAT*

13

*CERTAIN FUNDS FROM THE HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS FUND*

14

*ACCOUNT ARE EXPENDED ON STUDENTS ENROLLED IN A*

15

*TECHNICAL INSTITUTE OR A VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL;*

16

*AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*

17

18

19

## Subtitle

20

*TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE*

21

*SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CONCERNING APPROVED*

22

*INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION; AND*

23

*CONCERNING THE HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS*

24

*FUND ACCOUNT.*

25

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*  
36 *college or university;*



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 (1) Industry;

29 (2) Health care; or

30 (3) Information technology.

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

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

