1	State of Arkansas As Engrossed: H2/20/23 H4/5/23
2	94th General Assembly A B111
3	Regular Session, 2023 HOUSE BILL 1417
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5	By: Representative Lundstrum
6	By: Senator J. English
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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.
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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.
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27	BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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29	SECTION 1. Arkansas Code $\S$ 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) $\underline{(A)}$ "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	$\frac{(A)}{(i)}$ A state-supported two-year or four-year
36	college or university;

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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;
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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	<u>fields:</u>
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

1	(2) The permissible high-demand fields under subsection (a) of
2	this section, including without limitation recommendations for adding or
3	removing a high-demand field that is considered eligible for scholarship
4	purposes under subsection (a) of this section.
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6	SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 19-5-302(11), concerning the Higher
7	Education Grants Fund Account of the State General Government Fund, is
8	amended to read as follows:
9	(11) Higher Education Grants Fund Account.
10	(A) The Higher Education Grants Fund Account shall be used for
11	the:
12	(i) State's contribution for tuition support for Arkansas
13	students attending out-of-state schools in dentistry, optometry, veterinary,
14	podiatry, osteopathy, and chiropractic; and
15	(ii) (a) Disbursement of funds for the Arkansas Academic
16	Challenge Scholarship Program, and other various scholarship, loan, and grant
17	programs as authorized by law and administered by the Division of Higher
18	Education or other state agencies made disbursing agents by the General
19	Assembly from the Higher Education Grants Fund Account.
20	(b) Disbursement of additional funds allocated for
21	the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program under this subdivision
22	(11)(A)(ii) shall account for the distribution of up to two million dollars
23	(\$2,000,000) by the Division of Higher Education on behalf of students who
24	are enrolled in a technical institute or a vocational-technical institute.
25	(B) The Higher Education Grants Fund Account shall consist of
26	transfers from the Private Career School Student Protection Trust Fund under
27	§ 6-51-607 and those general revenues and any other funds as may be provided
28	by law;
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30	/s/Lundstrum
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