

State of Arkansas  
94th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2023

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1462

By: Representatives Scott, Brooks, Vaught, A. Collins

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING YOUTHS IN FOSTER  
CARE; TO CERTIFY UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTHS; AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING YOUTHS IN  
FOSTER CARE; AND TO CERTIFY UNACCOMPANIED  
HOMELESS YOUTHS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 61, Subchapter 1, is amended  
to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-61-142. Transcripts.

A public college or university shall not charge a fee for the issuance  
of a paper transcript or an electronic transcript as defined under §6-80-107  
to a youth in foster care or a certified unaccompanied homeless youth under §  
9-25-106 if he or she is not in financial debt to the public college or  
university.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 9, Chapter 25, Subchapter 1, is amended  
to add an additional section to read as follows:

9-25-106. Certified unaccompanied homeless youths.

(a) As used in this section, "unaccompanied homeless youth" means an  
individual who is between sixteen (16) years of age and twenty-two (22) years  
of age and who is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian,  
including without limitation a youth:



1           (1) Who has run away from home;

2           (2) Who has been forced to leave his or her home; or

3           (3) Whose parents have left the area and left the youth behind.

4           (b) An unaccompanied homeless youth may become certified if he or she  
5 is:

6           (1) Found by a school district's liaison for homeless children  
7 and youths to be an unaccompanied homeless youth eligible for services under  
8 the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 11432 et  
9 seq., as existing on January 1, 2023; or

10           (2) Believed to qualify as an unaccompanied homeless youth, as  
11 defined in the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §  
12 11432 et seq., as existing on January 1, 2023, by:

13           (A) The director of an emergency shelter program funded by  
14 the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, or the  
15 designee of the director of an emergency shelter program funded by the United  
16 States Department of Housing and Urban Development;

17           (B) The director of a runaway or homeless youth basic  
18 center or transitional living program funded by the United States Department  
19 of Health and Human Services, or the director's designee; or

20           (C) A continuum of care lead agency, or its designee.

21           (c)(1) The Department of Human Services shall develop a standardized  
22 form that must be used by the entities specified in subsection (b) of this  
23 section to certify qualifying unaccompanied homeless youth.

24           (2) The front of the form required under subdivision (c)(1) of  
25 this section shall include without limitation the:

26           (A) Circumstances that qualify the youth as an  
27 unaccompanied homeless youth;

28           (B) Date the youth was certified; and

29           (C) Name, title, and signature of the certifying  
30 individual specified under subsection (b) of this section.

31           (3) The requirements under subdivision (c)(2) shall be  
32 reproduced on the back of the form.

33           (d) A certified unaccompanied homeless youth may use the completed  
34 form to have:

35           (1) The fee for the issuance of an identification card waived  
36 under § 27-16-805(a);

1           (2) The fee for the issuance of a driver's license waiver under  
 2   § 27-16-801(i);

3           (3) Any other costs incidental to licensure waived under § 27-  
 4   16-801;

5           (4) The fee for driver education waived under § 27-18-106;

6           (5) The fee for the issuance of a certified copy of his or her  
 7   birth certificate waived under § 20-18-306(c); or

8           (6) Have the fee for the issuance of a copy of his or her  
 9   transcript waived under § 6-61-142.

10  
 11         SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 20-18-306, concerning fees for certified  
 12         copies, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

13         (c) However, a certified copy of his or her birth certificate shall be  
 14         furnished without cost to:

15           (1) A youth in foster care who reaches eighteen (18) years of  
 16         age or before leaving foster care, whichever is later; or

17           (2) A certified unaccompanied homeless youth under § 9-25-106.

18  
 19         SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 27-16-801, concerning the issuance of a  
 20         driver's license, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as  
 21         follows:

22         (i) The Office of Driver Services shall not charge a fee for the  
 23         issuance of a driver's license under subsection (a) of this section or any  
 24         other costs incidental to licensure under this section for an eligible  
 25         applicant in foster care or a certified unaccompanied homeless youth under §  
 26         9-25-106.

27  
 28         SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 27-16-805(a), concerning the issuance of an  
 29         identification card, is amended to read as follows:

30         (a)(1) The Office of Driver Services may issue an identification card  
 31         to Arkansas residents five (5) years of age or older who are not licensed  
 32         drivers.

33           (2)(A) The fee for the identification card is five dollars  
 34         (\$5.00).

35           (B) However, the office shall not charge a fee for the  
 36         issuance of an identification card to an eligible applicant who is in foster

1 care or is a certified unaccompanied homeless youth under § 9-25-106.

2  
3 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 27-18-106(a), concerning fees paid for  
4 driver education, is amended to read as follows:

5 (a)(1) For ~~any of~~ the purposes set out in § 27-18-101, the Arkansas  
6 State Police Commission is authorized to charge a fee ~~of five dollars (\$5.00)~~  
7 for any student of the driver education course in the following amounts:

8 (A) Five dollars (\$5.00) for a student of:

9 (i) An accredited high school;

10 ~~(B)~~ (ii) A state or privately supported college,  
11 university, or junior college; ~~and or~~

12 ~~(C)~~(iii) ~~Any~~ A vocational-technical training school  
13 engaging in the driver education course; and

14 ~~(2)(B) The commission is further authorized to charge a fee of~~  
15 ~~ten Ten~~ dollars (\$10.00) for any other person ~~engaging in the driver~~  
16 ~~education course for the purposes set out in § 27-18-101.~~

17 ~~(3)(2)~~ Upon determination that a student or qualified  
18 prospective student of the driver education course is unable to pay the fee  
19 authorized by this section, the commission shall waive the fee, as it is the  
20 purpose and intent of this chapter to provide driver education for the  
21 citizens of Arkansas.

22 (3) The commission shall waive the fee authorized by this  
23 section for a child in foster care or an unaccompanied homeless youth  
24 certified under § 9-25-106.