

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1957

5 By: Representative M. Gray
6 By: Senator Hickey
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING THE AWARDING OF SCHOLARSHIPS UNDER
10 THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM;
11 TO ALLOW A SCHOLARSHIP TO BE USED TOWARD A GRADUATE-
12 LEVEL OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE; TO REVISE THE MANNER IN
13 WHICH EARNED SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS ARE CALCULATED;
14 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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17 CONCERNING THE AWARDING OF SCHOLARSHIPS
18 UNDER THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE
19 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-85-204(6)(A), concerning the definition
26 of "continuously enrolled" in the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship
27 Program, is amended to read as follows:

28 (A) For a traditional student, he or she successfully
29 completes at an approved institution of higher education twenty-seven (27)
30 semester hours in the first academic year as a recipient and, except as
31 provided in § 6-85-212(e)(1)(A)(iv)(c), successfully completes thirty (30)
32 semester hours each academic year thereafter, not including any summer term;
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34 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-85-206(3)(A)(i), concerning programs of
35 study in which an applicant for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship
36 Program must be enrolled to be eligible for the scholarship, is amended to



1 add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

2 (d) A graduate-level or professional degree;

3 or

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 5 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-85-210(a)(1), concerning continuing
 6 eligibility in the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, is
 7 amended to read as follows:

8 (a)(1)(A) A recipient who meets continuing eligibility criteria under
 9 this subchapter shall receive a scholarship for one (1) academic year
 10 renewable annually until the recipient ~~first~~:

11 ~~(A) Earns a baccalaureate degree; or~~

12 ~~(B)(i) Has~~ has earned one hundred twenty (120) semester
 13 credit hours.

14 ~~(ii)~~(B) A recipient may continue to receive a
 15 scholarship after he or she has earned one hundred twenty (120) semester
 16 credit hours, but not more than one hundred thirty (130) semester credit
 17 hours, if the student is enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program that
 18 requires more than one hundred twenty (120) semester credit hours as provided
 19 under § 6-61-232.

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 21 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-85-210(b)(2)(A)(iii), concerning
 22 continuing eligibility in the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship
 23 Program, is amended to read as follows:

24 (iii) By accepting scholarship funds under this
 25 subchapter, the receiving institution certifies that students will be
 26 enrolled in courses that will meet satisfactory academic progress standards
 27 leading toward a certificate, an associate degree, a nursing diploma, ~~or~~ a
 28 baccalaureate degree, or a graduate-level or professional degree.

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 30 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-85-210(b)(5), concerning continuing
 31 eligibility in the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, is
 32 amended to read as follows:

33 (5) A recipient shall enroll in courses that lead toward a
 34 baccalaureate degree ~~program~~ or graduate-level or professional degree after
 35 attempting the lesser of:

36 (A) Five (5) semesters; or

1 (B) The completion of an associate degree program; and

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 3 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(e)(1)(A)(iv)(b), concerning
 4 scholarship award amounts, is amended to read as follows:

5 (b) A recipient shall receive no more than one
 6 (1) year of ~~a five thousand dollar~~ the scholarship provided under subdivision
 7 (e)(1)(A)(iv)(a) of this section unless the recipient is enrolled in a
 8 baccalaureate degree program that requires more than one hundred twenty (120)
 9 semester credit hours as provided under § 6-61-232.

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 11 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(e)(1)(A)(iv), concerning
 12 scholarship award amounts, is amended to add an additional subdivision to
 13 read as follows:

14 (c)(1) A recipient who is eligible to receive
 15 the scholarship under subdivision (e)(1)(A)(iv)(a) of this section may
 16 receive the scholarship while enrolled in a semester as a part-time student
 17 if the recipient is enrolled in the number of credit hours necessary to
 18 complete the recipient's degree program.

19 (2) The scholarship amount for the
 20 semester in which a recipient is enrolled as a part-time student under
 21 subdivision (e)(1)(A)(iv)(c)(1) of this section shall be prorated by the
 22 number of credit hours in which the recipient is enrolled.

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 24 SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(e)(1), concerning scholarship
 25 award amounts, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as
 26 follows:

27 (D)(i) The earned semester credit hours under subdivision
 28 (e)(1)(A) of this section are those semester credit hours earned after
 29 graduating from high school or obtaining a high school equivalency diploma
 30 approved by the Department of Career Education.

31 (ii) Any semester credit hours earned through
 32 concurrent credit or any other method before graduating high school or
 33 obtaining a high school equivalency diploma approved by the Department of
 34 Career Education shall not be counted as earned semester credit hours for the
 35 purposes of determining a recipient's scholarship award amount under
 36 subdivision (e)(1)(A) of this section.

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2 SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(e)(2)(C), concerning priority for
3 scholarships for nontraditional students, is amended to read as follows:

4 (C) Priority for scholarships awarded to nontraditional
5 students and current achiever students is based on:

6 (i) ~~the~~ The applicant's level of progress toward
7 completion of a certificate, an associate degree, a nursing diploma, ~~or~~ a
8 baccalaureate degree, or a graduate-level or professional degree; or

9 (ii) ~~on other~~ Other criteria established by the
10 ~~department~~ Department of Higher Education.

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12 SECTION 10. The introductory language of Arkansas Code § 6-85-
13 212(i)(2)(A), concerning the priority of awarding scholarships if the funding
14 is insufficient to fully fund all scholarships, is amended to read as
15 follows:

16 (A) First, to students who have the highest level of
17 progress toward completion of a certificate, an associate degree, ~~or~~ a
18 baccalaureate degree, or a graduate-level or professional degree, and who are
19 enrolled in a program of study that is:

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21 SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(i)(2)(B), concerning the priority
22 of awarding scholarships if the funding is insufficient to fully fund all
23 scholarships, is amended to read as follows:

24 (B) Second, to students who have the highest level of
25 progress toward completion of a certificate, an associate degree, ~~or~~ a
26 baccalaureate degree, or a graduate-level or professional degree, and who are
27 enrolled in a program of study other than those listed in subdivision
28 (i)(2)(A) of this section; and

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30 SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(j), concerning when sufficient
31 net lottery proceeds exist to fund all eligible students, is repealed.

32 ~~(j) When the General Assembly determines that sufficient net lottery~~
33 ~~proceeds exist to fund students enrolling in certificate, associate degree,~~
34 ~~and a baccalaureate degree programs, the department shall submit~~
35 ~~recommendations to the Legislative Council for the award of scholarships and~~
36 ~~grants to certain graduate and professional programs at approved institutions~~

1 ~~of higher education.~~

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