

State of Arkansas  
93rd General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2021

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 114

By: Senator Irvin

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING APPLICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY FOR THE ACADEMIC SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIP, THE ARKANSAS GOVERNOR'S SCHOLARS PROGRAM, AND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TEACHERS IN HIGH-NEED SUBJECT AREAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING APPLICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY FOR THE ACADEMIC SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIP, THE ARKANSAS GOVERNOR'S SCHOLARS PROGRAM, AND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TEACHERS IN HIGH-NEED SUBJECT AREAS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-82-108(c), concerning the Academic Support Scholarship, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(6) Complete and submit to the United States Department of Education a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or a subsequent application required by the United States Department of Education for federal financial aid.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-82-306(b)(1)-(5), concerning eligibility for the Arkansas Governor's Scholars Program, are amended to read as follows:

(b) A student is eligible for ~~this scholarship~~ a scholarship under



subsection (a) of this section if he or she:

(1) Meets the admission requirements and is accepted for enrollment as a full-time undergraduate student in an eligible public or private college or university in Arkansas;

(2)(A) Is a bona fide resident of the state, as defined by the Division of Higher Education.

(B) Preference will be given to students who plan to enter college at the beginning of the academic year directly following their last year of high school attendance;

(3) Is a citizen of the United States or a permanent resident alien;

(4) Graduates from a high school;

~~(5)(A)(5) Demonstrates proficiency in the application of knowledge and skills in reading and writing literacy and mathematics by passing the end-of-course examination as may be developed by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education and as may be designated by the Division of Higher Education for this purpose.~~

~~(B) "End-of-course" assessment means those assessments defined in § 6-15-419 [repealed]~~ Has completed and submitted to the United States Department of Education a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or a subsequent application required by the United States Department of Education for federal financial aid; and

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1901(b), concerning scholarships for teachers in high-need subject areas, is amended to read as follows:

(b) To be eligible for a scholarship award under subdivision (a)(1) of this section, a recipient shall:

(1) Maintain a postsecondary grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale at an approved institution of higher education;

(2) Be enrolled in a teacher education program at a four-year approved institution of higher education; ~~and~~

(3) Complete and submit to the United States Department of Education a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or a subsequent application required by the United States Department of Education for federal financial aid; and

~~(3)(A)(4)(A)~~ Enter into a written agreement with the Division of

Higher Education to teach at a public school for a minimum of five (5) consecutive years in a high-need subject area as determined under subdivision ~~(b)(3)(B)~~ (b)(4)(B) of this section.

(B) A recipient shall be deemed to be teaching in a high-need subject area if the subject area in which the recipient is employed to teach was determined by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to be a high-need subject area in:

(i) The year the recipient entered into the agreement with the Division of Higher Education under subdivision ~~(b)(3)(B)~~ (b)(4)(B) of this section;

(ii) Any year the recipient received a scholarship award under this subchapter; or

(iii) The year the recipient is licensed as a teacher by the State Board of Education.

**APPROVED: 3/15/21**