

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

SENATE BILL 139

By: Senator J. Dismang

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN SCHOLARSHIPS; TO ALLOW A STUDENT APPLYING FOR THE ARKANSAS GOVERNOR'S SCHOLARS PROGRAM OR THE CRITICAL NEEDS MINORITY TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO USE HIS OR HER ACT SUPERSCORE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ALLOW A STUDENT APPLYING FOR THE ARKANSAS GOVERNOR'S SCHOLARS PROGRAM OR THE CRITICAL NEEDS MINORITY TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO USE HIS OR HER ACT SUPERSCORE.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-82-302(6), concerning the definition of "extraordinary academic ability" under the Arkansas Governor's Scholars Program, is amended to read as follows:

(6)(A) "Extraordinary academic ability" means:

(i) Achievement of a ~~score~~ superscore, as defined by § 6-85-204(25), of 32 or above on the ACT or a score of 1410 or above on the SAT; and

(ii) Either:

~~(i)~~(a) For students graduating from high school after December 31, 2001, achievement of a high school grade point average of 3.5 or above on a 4.0 scale; or



(b) Selection as a finalist in either the National Merit Scholarship competition, the National Hispanic Recognition Program, or the National Achievement Scholarship competition conducted by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

(B) For students graduating after December 31, 2001, the ACT ~~scores~~ superscores and SAT scores shall be earned by December 31 prior to the application deadline in order for the scores to be considered by the Division of Higher Education for a scholarship award;

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1503(c), concerning the selection criteria under the Critical Needs Minority Teacher Scholarship Program, is amended to read as follows:

(c)(1) The university is authorized to develop selection criteria through Critical Needs Minority Teacher Scholarship Program rules, which combine an applicant's ACT superscore, as defined by § 6-85-204(25), or ACT equivalent score and grade point average in the core curriculum into a selection index.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions (b)(1) and ~~(b)~~(2) of this section, this selection index shall be employed as an alternative selection process for applicants who achieve a grade point average below 2.5 on a 4.0 scale or for applicants who have an ACT composite superscore or ACT equivalent score greater than nineteen (19).

APPROVED: 4/19/21