

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 413 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

As Engrossed: H2/14/23

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1412

By: Representative J. Mayberry

By: Senator J. English

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING RULES PROMULGATED BY THE DIVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION; TO REQUIRE THE DIVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO PROMULGATE CERTAIN RULES CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDED WITH STATE FUNDS AND LOTTERY PROCEEDS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE THE DIVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO PROMULGATE CERTAIN RULES CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDED WITH STATE FUNDS AND LOTTERY PROCEEDS; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 80, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-80-109. Division of Higher Education – Rules.

(a) The Division of Higher Education shall promulgate or update existing division rules to allow a student who is a recipient of a scholarship to utilize scholarship funds to enroll in and attend courses offered during a summer term at the postsecondary institution in which the student is enrolled.

(b) Rules promulgated under this section shall include without



limitation requirements concerning:

(1) Student eligibility; and
(2) The disbursement and administration of scholarship funds
utilized by a student to enroll in and attend courses offered during a summer
term.

(c) As used in this section, "scholarship" shall include a scholarship
program that is:

(1) Funded with state funds or lottery proceeds; and
(2) Administered by the division.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-85-204(14), concerning the definition of "semester" under the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, is amended to read as follows:

(14)(A) "Semester" means one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of a traditional academic year at an institution of higher education, or an equivalent approved by the division, in which a student enrolls for not less than:

~~(A)(i)~~ Fifteen (15) credit hours as a full-time student, except that in the first semester as a first-time full-time freshman, a traditional student shall enroll in not less than twelve (12) credit hours; or

~~(B)(ii)~~ Six (6) credit hours as a part-time student.

(B) For purposes of summer courses at an institution of
higher education, a "semester" shall mean the same as is defined by the
division, as required by § 6-80-109;

SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the Division of Higher
Education must make certain arrangements to facilitate the use of Arkansas
Academic Challenge Scholarship funds for upcoming summer courses; and that
many of these arrangements must occur in time for the 2023-2024 school year.
Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being necessary
for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become
effective on July 1, 2023.

/s/J. Mayberry

APPROVED: 3/30/23