

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
89th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2013

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2125

By: Representative Hammer

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REDUCE THE COST OF REMEDIAL COURSES PAID FROM THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - PART 2; TO ESTABLISH A TIME FRAME FOR COMPLETING REMEDIATION; TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR NONTRADITIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REDUCE THE COST OF REMEDIAL COURSES PAID FROM THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - PART 2; TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR NONTRADITIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-61-110 is amended to read as follows:

6-61-110. Testing of entering freshmen for remedial courses.

(a) A first-time entering freshman at a state-supported institution of higher education who is admitted to enroll in an associate or a bachelor's degree program shall be tested by the admitting institution for purposes of placement in either college-level credit courses in English and mathematics or remedial courses in English composition, reading, and mathematics.

(b)(1) The cost of a remedial course taken by a student who is subject to § 6-85-206(b) shall be the joint responsibility of the:

(A) High school that graduated the student for one-third (1/3) of the tuition;



(B) Student for one-third (1/3) of the tuition; and
(C) Institution of higher education for one-third (1/3) of
the tuition.

(2) The student shall not pay his or her part of the tuition
with an Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship.

~~(b)(c)~~ Remedial courses shall not provide credit toward a degree.

~~(e)(1)(d)(1)~~ The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall determine the:

(A) Test or other criteria to be used;

(B) Testing procedures and exemptions;

(C) Minimum scores or criteria below which ~~students a~~
student at all a state-supported ~~institutions~~ institution of higher education
~~must~~ is required to take remedial courses; and

(D) Minimum scores or criteria to allow simultaneous enrollment in college-level credit and remedial courses.

(2) The board shall base these decisions on:

(A) Consultation with representatives of the state-supported institutions of higher education;

(B) Analysis of the placement procedures presently used by institutions in the state;

(C) Statewide placement testing programs in other states;

and

(D) Pilot projects involving testing of entering freshmen at selected institutions in the state.

(3) The board, in collaboration with state-supported institutions of higher education, shall develop by institution uniform measurable exit standards for remedial courses that are comparable to the ACT or SAT equivalent required for college-level enrollment in credit courses ~~to~~
~~be implemented no later than the fall semester of 2010.~~

~~(d)(1)(e)~~ The board shall work with state-supported institutions of higher education to:

~~(A)(1)~~ Develop innovative alternatives to traditional instruction and delivery methods for remedial courses; and

~~(B)(2)~~ Provide professional development opportunities to help remedial education faculty gain knowledge in best practices and trends in the instruction and delivery of remedial education.

~~(2) The board shall report to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education by February 1, 2010, on the progress made in addressing the requirements in subdivision (d)(1) of this section.~~

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-85-206, concerning basic eligibility requirements for a scholarship under the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program - Part 2, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(b)(1) A traditional student who is otherwise eligible for a scholarship under this subchapter shall forfeit a scholarship award if the student:

(A) Has graduated from an Arkansas public high school;

(B) Is required to complete one (1) or more remedial courses under § 6-61-110; and

(C) Does not successfully complete all required remedial courses by July 31 before the first semester for which the scholarship is awarded.

(2) The Department of Higher Education shall add the amount of a scholarship award that is forfeited under this subsection to the total amount of scholarship awards for nontraditional students under § 6-85-212(e)(2)(A).

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-85-210(b)(3), concerning continuing eligibility for a scholarship, is amended to read as follows:

(3) A nontraditional recipient who enrolls in one (1) or more remedial courses shall complete all remedial courses required by the approved institution of higher education by the time the student completes the first thirty (30) semester hours attempted after receiving the scholarship;

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(e)(2)(A), concerning aggregate scholarship award amounts for nontraditional students, is amended to read as follows:

(2)(A) The department shall award ~~an aggregate amount of scholarship awards~~ scholarships to nontraditional students beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year in the total amount of twelve million dollars (\$12,000,000) plus any additional amounts provided by law.