

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 2284

By: Representative Hammer

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOLARSHIP
AWARDS UNDER THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, PART 2; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOLARSHIP
AWARDS UNDER THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC
CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, PART 2;
AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-85-204, concerning definitions for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, Part 2, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(23) "Two-year approved institution of higher education" means an approved:

(A) Technical college or community college under the Arkansas Technical and Community College System;

(B) Branch campus of a four-year approved institution of higher education; or

(C) Nursing school.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(e)(1), concerning the scholarship award amount for a full-time recipient at a four-year institution of higher education, is amended to read as follows:



(e)(1)(A) Beginning with the ~~2011-2012~~ 2013-2014 academic year, the Department of Higher Education shall distribute scholarship award amount awards under this subchapter for an academic year for a full-time traditional or nontraditional recipient ~~enrolled in a four-year approved institution of higher education is four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500)~~ as provided under § 6-85-222.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(e)(2)(A), concerning scholarship award amounts, is amended to read as follows:

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

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(e)(3) is repealed.

~~(3) The scholarship award for a full-time student enrolled in one (1) of the following institutions of higher education is one half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of the scholarship award amount for a full-time undergraduate student enrolled in a four-year approved institution of higher education:~~

- ~~(A) A two-year approved institution of higher education;~~
- ~~(B) A branch campus of a four-year approved institution of higher education; or~~
- ~~(C) An approved nursing school.~~

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 85, Subchapter 2, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-85-222. Scholarship award distribution.

(a) The Department of Higher Education shall award scholarships under this subchapter for an academic year but shall distribute the awards as provided under this section after the last day to drop a class at an approved institution of higher education in each fall and spring semester.

(b) For a recipient who has a minimum composite ACT score of twenty-one (21) or higher or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent and a high school grade point average of 2.75 or higher if enrolled in the first semester as a first-time freshman or a postsecondary grade point average of 2.75 or higher if enrolled in a subsequent semester, the annual scholarship

award amount is:

(1) Two thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$2,250) for a recipient to attend a two-year approved institution of higher education, distributed as:

(A) One thousand dollars (\$1,000) in the first semester the recipient is enrolled; and

(B) One thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$1,250) in the second semester the recipient is enrolled; and

(2)(A) Three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) for a recipient to attend a four-year approved institution of higher education, distributed as one thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$1,750) each semester.

(B) A recipient under subdivision (b)(1) of this section who attends two (2) years at a two-year approved institution of higher education and maintains or exceeds a minimum postsecondary grade point average of 2.75 may transfer to a four-year approved institution of higher education and receive the scholarship award amount under subdivision (b)(2)(A) of this section.

(c) For a recipient who has a minimum composite ACT score of nineteen (19) or twenty (20) or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent and a high school grade point average of 2.50 or higher if enrolled in the first semester as a first-time freshman or a postsecondary grade point average of 2.50 if enrolled in a subsequent semester, the annual scholarship award amount is:

(1) Two thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$2,250) for a recipient to attend a two-year approved institution of higher education in the recipient's first year of enrollment, distributed as:

(A) Eight hundred dollars (\$800) in the first semester of each year; and

(B) One thousand four hundred fifty dollars (\$1,450) in the second semester of each year;

(2) One thousand dollars (\$1,000) for a recipient to attend a four-year approved institution of higher education in the recipient's first year of enrollment, distributed as five hundred dollars (\$500) in each semester;

(3) One thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) for a recipient

to attend a four-year approved institution of higher education in the recipient's second year of enrollment, distributed as seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750) each semester;

(4) Three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) for a recipient to attend a four-year approved institution of higher education in the recipient's third year of enrollment, distributed as:

(A) One thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) in the first semester; and

(B) Two thousand dollars (\$2,000) in the second semester;

and

(5) Four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500) for a recipient to attend a four-year approved institution of higher education in the recipient's fourth year of enrollment, distributed as:

(A) Two thousand dollars (\$2,000) in the first semester;

and

(B) Two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) in the second semester.

(d) First and second semesters shall be consecutive except that the following semesters are not counted:

(1) A summer semester; or

(2) A semester for which the department has granted a waiver of continuing eligibility and the student is not enrolled.

(e)(1) The department shall not distribute funds in the second semester of an academic year if the recipient has not maintained continuing eligibility for the scholarship for the second semester.

(2) Scholarship award amounts that are not paid in the second semester of an academic year due to a recipient's failure to maintain continuing eligibility shall be added to the aggregate amount of scholarship awards for nontraditional students under § 6-85-212(e)(2).

SECTION 6. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that increasing the number of Arkansans obtaining postsecondary credentials is critical to the economic health of the state and its citizens; that the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery provides the opportunity for tens of thousands of Arkansans to obtain postsecondary education; that the deadline for scholarship applications is

June 1, 2013; that the financial integrity of the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery is critical to the continued existence of the scholarships; and that this act is immediately necessary because the Department of Higher Education must promulgate rules to implement this act before June 1, 2013, in order to provide eligible Arkansans the opportunity to apply for the scholarship. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.