

State of Arkansas  
90th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2015

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1836

By: Representative Cozart

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS GOVERNOR'S SCHOLARS PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS GOVERNOR'S SCHOLARS PROGRAM.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-82-306(b)(4), concerning eligibility for the Arkansas Governor's Scholars Program, is amended to read as follows:

(4) Graduates from+

~~(A) A a high school in this state, for Arkansas Governor's Scholars; or~~

~~(B) A high school, for Arkansas Governor's Distinguished Scholars;~~

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-82-306(b)(6)(B), concerning eligibility for the Arkansas Governor's Scholars Program, is amended to add additional subdivisions to read as follows:

(iii)(a) After determining qualified recipients based on the qualifications under subdivision (b)(6)(A) of this section, the Department of Higher Education shall ensure that at least one (1) recipient is selected from each of the seventy-five (75) counties in Arkansas.

(b) If any of the seventy-five (75) counties is not represented, the Department of Higher Education shall select a student from each non-represented county with the highest qualifications under



subdivision (b)(6)(A) of this section who was not initially qualified.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-82-308 is amended to read as follows:

6-82-308. Number ~~and geographic distribution~~ of scholarships.

(a) If sufficient funds are available, effective for students receiving their initial awards beginning in fall 2007, the number of initial scholarship awards to eligible high achievers shall not exceed three hundred seventy-five (375) each year, ~~to be distributed as follows:~~

~~(1) Up to three hundred (300) Arkansas Governor's Distinguished Scholarships; and~~

~~(2)(A) Seventy-five (75) Arkansas Governor's Scholarships at four thousand dollars (\$4,000) per year.~~

~~(B) The seventy-five (75) Arkansas Governor's Scholarships shall be awarded to one (1) student in each of the seventy-five (75) counties in Arkansas.~~

(b)(1) A report that demonstrates, based on economic projections and revenue forecasts, that sufficient funds are available to award scholarships to high achievers relative to the number of Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship recipients shall be submitted to the House Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Education, and the Legislative Council for review prior to obligating the funds.

(2) Should a shortfall of funds be projected, the Department of Higher Education shall promulgate rules for the priority funding of these scholarships and submit these proposed rules to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board for a public hearing and to the ~~Subcommittee on~~ Administrative Rules and Regulations Review Subcommittee of the Legislative Council for review before implementing the rules.

(3) If there are more eligible applicants than available scholarships, the department may determine a procedure for awarding additional scholarships while not exceeding available funds.