

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

State of Arkansas
92nd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2019

As Engrossed: H2/4/19
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1296

By: Representatives McCollum, Clowney, D. Garner, Payton, Pilkington, V. Flowers, Scott, G. Hodges

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE KEEP ARKANSANS WORKING ACT OF 2019; TO ENSURE THAT DEFAULT OR DELINQUENT STUDENT LOANS OR SCHOLARSHIPS DO NOT RESULT IN SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF A LICENSE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE KEEP ARKANSANS WORKING ACT OF 2019; AND TO ENSURE THAT DEFAULT OR DELINQUENT STUDENT LOANS OR SCHOLARSHIPS DO NOT RESULT IN SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF A LICENSE.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 17 is amended to add an additional chapter to read as follows:

Chapter 2 – Keep Arkansans Working Act of 2019

17-2-101. Title.

This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Keep Arkansans Working Act of 2019".

17-2-102. Purpose.

It is the purpose of this chapter to ensure that hard-working Arkansans maintain occupational licenses while trying to maintain debt free lives and trying not to be impoverished.



17-2-103. Definitions.

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Default" means the failure to:

(A) Repay a student loan according to the terms agreed upon in a promissory note; or

(B) Satisfy the requirements and conditions of a work conditional scholarship for repayment;

(2) "Delinquent" means the failure to:

(A) Make a student loan payment when the payment is due;
or

(B) Satisfy the requirements and conditions of a work conditional scholarship for repayment;

(3) "License" means a license, certificate, registration, permit, or other form of authorization required by law or rule that is required for an individual to engage in a particular occupation or profession;

(4) "Scholarship" means an award of financial aid to a student for education at a public or private institution of higher education;

(5) "State authority" means an office, board, commission, department, council, bureau, or other agency of state government having authority to license, certify, register, permit, or otherwise authorize an individual to engage in a particular occupation or profession; and

(6) "Student loan" means a loan guaranteed by the federal government or state government for purposes of education at a public or private institution of higher education.

17-2-104. Student loans.

Except as provided for rural medical practice student loans and scholarships under § 6-81-701 et seq., a state authority shall not suspend or revoke a license that has been issued to an individual solely on the basis of that individual being:

(1) Default on the repayment obligations required by one (1) or more student loans; or

(2) Delinquent in the payment of one (1) or more student loans.

17-2-105. Scholarships.

Except as provided for rural medical practice student loans and scholarships under § 6-81-701 et seq., a state authority shall not suspend or revoke a license that has been issued to an individual solely on the basis of that individual being:

(1) Default on the satisfaction of the requirements and conditions of a scholarship; or

(2) Delinquent in the satisfaction of the requirements and conditions of a scholarship.

/s/McCollum