

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

State of Arkansas      *As Engrossed: H2/9/21 S3/4/21 S3/16/21*  
93rd General Assembly      **A Bill**  
Regular Session, 2021

HOUSE BILL 1021

By: Representatives Cloud, *Lundstrum*

By: *Senator B. Davis*

**For An Act To Be Entitled**

*AN ACT TO CREATE THE FIRST-YEAR MEDICAL STUDENT  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ACT.*

**Subtitle**

*TO CREATE THE FIRST-YEAR MEDICAL STUDENT  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ACT.*

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 82, is amended to add an additional subchapter to read as follows:

Subchapter 21 – First-Year Medical Student Scholarship Program

6-82-2101. Title.

This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "First-Year Medical Student Scholarship Program Act".

6-82-2102. Program established – Purpose.

(a) There is established the First-Year Medical Student Scholarship Program.

(b) The purpose of the program is to encourage *individuals who are residents of Arkansas and are interested in attending medical school to accelerate and complete their undergraduate education within twenty-four (24) months of first enrolling in an accredited institution of higher education in the State of Arkansas.*

6-82-2103. Eligibility for scholarship – Amount – Administration.



(a) An applicant who meets the requirements under subsection (b) of this section is eligible to receive a First-Year Medical Student Scholarship award of a one-time payment in the amount of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) if the applicant completed his or her undergraduate education within twenty-four (24) months or fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) if the applicant completed his or her undergraduate education within thirty-six (36) months to be applied towards the completion of his or her studies leading to the degree of:

(1) Doctor of Medicine from the College of Medicine of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences; or

(2) Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from the Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine or the New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University.

(b) To be eligible for the scholarship award under subsection (a) of this section, an applicant shall:

(1) Be a resident of Arkansas; and

(2) Have successfully completed his or her first year of medical school at the:

(A) College of Medicine of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences;

(B) Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine; or

(C) New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University.

(c) A recipient of a scholarship awarded under this section shall not be required to repay any of the amount he or she receives.

(d)(1) Subject to the availability of funds, a scholarship under this section shall be awarded to each eligible applicant.

(2) If sufficient funds are not available to fully fund a scholarship award to each eligible applicant under this section, a scholarship shall be awarded to an eligible applicant who has completed his or her undergraduate education within twenty-four (24) months of first enrolling in an accredited institution of higher education in the State of Arkansas on a first-come, first-served basis.

(e) All payments of scholarships awarded under this section shall be drawn from funds disbursed by the Division of Higher Education as provided for in the Higher Education Grants Fund Account for the First-Year Medical

Student Scholarship Program.

(f)(1) Subject to the availability of funds, the division shall disburse the funds and shall award scholarships from the Higher Education Grants Fund Account in the order in which the division receives a letter submitted under subdivision (h)(1) of this section from the College of Medicine of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences or the Osteopathic Rural Medical Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board.

(2) The division may disburse a scholarship award directly to an applicant who meets the requirements to receive a scholarship under the program.

(g) The division shall promulgate rules for the administration of the program under this act.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 19-5-302(11)(B), concerning the State General Government Fund, is amended to read as follows:

(B) The Higher Education Grants Fund Account shall consist of:

(i) ~~transfers~~ Transfers from the Private Career School Student Protection Trust Fund under § 6-51-607 ~~and those general revenues and any other funds as may be provided by law;~~

(ii) Transfers, grants, contributions, or gratuities received from private persons or corporations for the First-Year Medical Student Scholarship Program or any other health education grant and loan programs to be held in a subaccount of the Higher Education Grants Fund Account exclusively for that purpose;

(iii) Those general revenues as may be provided by law; and

(iv) Any other funds as may be provided by law.

/s/Cloud