

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

SENATE BILL 503

By: Senator Irvin

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A SCHOLARSHIP APPEALS COMMITTEE
WITHIN THE DIVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ESTABLISH A SCHOLARSHIP APPEALS
COMMITTEE WITHIN THE DIVISION OF HIGHER
EDUCATION.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 80, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-80-109. Scholarship appeals.

(a) The Division of Higher Education shall establish an appeals committee for all scholarships administered by the division.

(b)(1) The appeals committee shall be composed of seven (7) members appointed by the Director of the Division of Higher Education, which shall include:

(A) One (1) financial aid staff member from a state-supported four-year institution of higher education;

(B) One (1) financial aid staff member from a state-supported two-year institution of higher education; and

(C) The Assistant Director of Financial Aid of the Division of Higher Education.

(2) The Director of the Division of Higher Education shall serve as an ex officio nonvoting member of the appeals committee.



(c)(1) Only the following matters are appealable to the appeals committee established under this section:

- (A) An appeal to reinstate a scholarship;
- (B) An appeal to change a probationary status; or
- (C) An appeal to amend a scholarship hold request.

(2) The appeals committee shall not hear appeals to:

- (A) Waive eligibility requirements for a scholarship; and
- (B) Hear matters that are specifically prohibited by law.

(d) An individual initiating an appeal under subsection (c) shall provide:

- (1) A transcript; and
- (2) Any other documentation requested by the appeals committee.

(e)(1) An individual may appeal a decision issued by the division regarding an appealable matter as set out in subdivision (c)(1) of this section immediately upon notification of the change in his or her scholarship status.

(2)(A) The appeals committee shall provide a final decision within thirty (30) days of receipt of an appeal.

(B) A decision issued by the appeals committee is final and not subject to further appeal or request for rehearing to the appeals committee or petition for judicial review under the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.

(3) A scholarship payment shall not be made retroactive upon a finding by the appeals committee in favor of an individual.