

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

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
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As Engrossed: H2/20/23 H4/4/23
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1413

By: Representative Lundstrum
By: Senator J. English

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING LOTTERY-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS; TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, ARKANSAS WORKFORCE CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, AND ARKANSAS CONCURRENT CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO INCLUDE VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOLS AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AS APPROVED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LOTTERY-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS TO INCLUDE VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOLS AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AS APPROVED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-85-204(3), concerning the definition of an "approved institution of higher education" under the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, is amended to read as follows:

(3)~~(A)~~ "Approved institution of higher education" means an institution of higher education approved by the division to participate in the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program and that is:

~~(A)~~(i) A state-supported two-year or four-year college or university;



~~(B)(ii)~~ A private, nonprofit two-year or four-year college or university with its primary headquarters located in Arkansas that is eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds; ~~or~~

~~(G)(iii)~~ An approved school of nursing, subject to the provisions of § 6-85-213(c);

(iv)(a) A public or private vocational-technical school.

(b) A public or private vocational-technical school shall be bonded and insured; or

(v)(a) A public or private technical institute.

(b) A public or private technical institute shall be bonded and insured.

(B) An approved institution of higher education that is a private, nonprofit two-year or four-year college or university shall be eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds;

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

6-85-222. Vocational-technical school and technical institute eligibility.

(a) An applicant for a scholarship under this subchapter who has applied to or is currently enrolled in a public or private vocational-technical school or a public or private technical institute shall, in addition to the relevant eligibility requirements under this subchapter, be accepted for admission in a program of study that leads to an associate degree or a certificate program in one (1) of the following high-demand fields:

(1) Industry;

(2) Health care; or

(3) Information technology.

(b) The Division of Higher Education shall file annually by November 1 a report to the Legislative Council in the manner and format that the Legislative Council requires regarding:

(1) All state-supported student financial assistance awarded by the division under this section to students enrolled in vocational-technical schools and technical institutes; and

(2) The permissible high-demand fields under subsection (a) of

this section, including without limitation recommendations for adding or removing a high-demand field that is considered eligible for scholarship purposes under subsection (a) of this section.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-85-302(1), concerning the definition of an "approved institution of higher education" under the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program, is amended to read as follows:

(1)(A) "Approved institution of higher education" means an institution of higher education approved by the Division of Higher Education to participate in the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program and that is:

~~(A)(i)~~ A state-supported two-year or four-year college or university; ~~or~~

~~(B)(ii)~~ A private, nonprofit two-year or four-year college or university with its primary headquarters located in Arkansas that is eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds;

(iii)(a) A public or private vocational-technical school.

(b) A public or private vocational-technical school shall be bonded and insured; or

(iv)(a) A public or private technical institute.

(b) A public or private technical institute shall be bonded and insured.

(B) An approved institution of higher education that is a private, nonprofit two-year or four-year college or university shall be eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds;

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-85-306 is amended to read as follows:

6-85-306. Agreements between institutions.

An approved institution of higher education may enter into agreements with other institutions of higher education, ~~including without limitation technical institutes,~~ to allow students enrolled in the approved institution of higher education under this subchapter to take courses at the other institutions of higher education.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 85, Subchapter 3, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-85-308. Report.

Annually by November 1, the Division of Higher Education shall report to the Legislative Council in the manner and format that the Legislative Council requires on all state-supported student financial assistance awarded by the division under this section to students enrolled in vocational-technical schools and technical institutes.

SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 6-85-402(1), concerning the definition of "approved institution of higher education" under the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program, is amended to read as follows:

(1)~~(A)~~ "Approved institution of higher education" means an institution of higher education that:

~~(A)(i)~~ Is approved by the Division of Higher Education to participate in the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program;

~~(B)(ii)~~ Offers at least a fifty-percent discount on the tuition and mandatory fees of an endorsed concurrent enrollment course or certificate program to a student who is enrolled in an endorsed concurrent enrollment course or certificate program, unless other opportunities are provided that lower the tuition and mandatory fees below fifty percent (50%); and

~~(C)(iii)~~ Is a:

~~(i)(a)~~ State-supported two-year or four-year college or university; ~~or~~

~~(ii)(b)~~ Private, nonprofit two-year or four-year college or university that has its primary headquarters located in Arkansas and that is eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds;

(c)(1) A public or private vocational-technical school.

(2) A public or private vocational-technical school shall be bonded and insured; or

(d)(1) A public or private technical institute.

(2) A public or private technical institute shall be bonded and insured.

(B) An approved institution of higher education that is a private, nonprofit two-year or four-year college or university shall be

eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds;

SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 6-85-403(c), concerning the eligibility for an award under the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program for a student who is enrolled in a vocational center, is repealed.

~~(c) A student whose enrollment in a vocational center is reimbursable under § 6-51-305 is not eligible for a scholarship under this subchapter.~~

SECTION 8. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 85, Subchapter 4, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-85-407. Vocational-technical school and technical institute eligibility – Report.

(a) An applicant for a scholarship under this subchapter who has applied to or is currently enrolled in a public or private vocational-technical school or a public or private technical institute shall, in addition to the eligibility requirements under § 6-85-403, be accepted for admission in a program of study that leads to an associate degree or a certificate program in one (1) of the following high-demand fields:

- (1) Industry;
- (2) Health care; or
- (3) Information technology.

(b) The Division of Higher Education shall file annually by November 1 a report to the Legislative Council in the manner and format that the Legislative Council requires regarding:

(1) All state-supported student financial assistance awarded by the division under this section to students enrolled in vocational-technical schools and technical institutes; and

(2) The permissible high-demand fields under subsection (a) of this section, including without limitation recommendations for adding or removing a high-demand field that is considered eligible for scholarship purposes under subsection (a) of this section.

/s/Lundstrum