

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

State of Arkansas  
94th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2023

As Engrossed: H3/1/23 H3/6/23  
**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1462

By: Representatives Scott, Brooks, Vaught, A. Collins

By: *Senator Irvin*

### **For An Act To Be Entitled**

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING YOUTHS IN FOSTER CARE; TO CERTIFY UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTHS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### **Subtitle**

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING YOUTHS IN FOSTER CARE; AND TO CERTIFY UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTHS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 61, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-61-142. Transcripts.

A public college or university shall not charge a fee for the issuance of a paper transcript or an electronic transcript as defined under §6-80-107 to a youth in foster care or a certified unaccompanied homeless youth under § 9-25-106 if he or she is not in financial debt to the public college or university.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 9, Chapter 25, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

9-25-106. Certified unaccompanied homeless youths.

(a) As used in this section, "unaccompanied homeless youth" means an individual who is between sixteen (16) years of age and twenty-two (22) years of age and who is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian,



including without limitation a youth:

- (1) Who has run away from home;
- (2) Who has been forced to leave his or her home; or
- (3) Whose parents have left the area and left the youth behind.

(b) An unaccompanied homeless youth may become certified if he or she is:

(1) Found by a school district's liaison for homeless children and youths to be an unaccompanied homeless youth eligible for services under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 11432 et seq., as existing on January 1, 2023; or

(2) Believed to qualify as an unaccompanied homeless youth, as defined in the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 11432 et seq., as existing on January 1, 2023, by:

(A) The director of an emergency shelter program funded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, or the designee of the director of an emergency shelter program funded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development;

(B) The director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program funded by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, or the director's designee; or

(C) A continuum of care lead agency, or its designee.

(c)(1) The Department of Human Services shall develop a standardized form that must be used by the entities specified in subsection (b) of this section to certify qualifying unaccompanied homeless youth.

(2) The front of the form required under subdivision (c)(1) of this section shall include without limitation the:

(A) Circumstances that qualify the youth as an unaccompanied homeless youth;

(B) Date the youth was certified; and

(C) Name, title, and signature of the certifying individual specified under subsection (b) of this section.

(3) The requirements under subdivision (c)(2) shall be reproduced on the back of the form.

(d) A certified unaccompanied homeless youth may use the completed form to have:

- (1) The fee for the issuance of an identification card waived

under § 27-16-805(a);

(2) The fee for the issuance of a driver's license waiver under § 27-16-801(i);

(3) Any other costs incidental to licensure waived under § 27-16-801;

(4) The fee for driver education waived under § 27-18-106;

(5) The fee for the issuance of a certified copy of his or her birth certificate waived under § 20-18-306(c); or

(6) Have the fee for the issuance of a copy of his or her transcript waived under § 6-61-142.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 20-18-306, concerning fees for certified copies, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(c) However, a certified copy of his or her birth certificate shall be furnished without cost to:

(1) A youth in foster care who reaches eighteen (18) years of age or before leaving foster care; or

(2) A certified unaccompanied homeless youth under § 9-25-106.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 27-16-801, concerning the issuance of a driver's license, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(i) The Office of Driver Services shall not charge a fee for the issuance of a driver's license under subsection (a) of this section or any other costs incidental to licensure under this section for an eligible applicant in foster care or a certified unaccompanied homeless youth under § 9-25-106.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 27-16-805(a), concerning the issuance of an identification card, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) The Office of Driver Services may issue an identification card to Arkansas residents five (5) years of age or older who are not licensed drivers.

(2)(A) The fee for the identification card is five dollars (\$5.00).

(B) However, the office shall not charge a fee for the

issuance of an identification card to an eligible applicant who is in foster care or is a certified unaccompanied homeless youth under § 9-25-106.

SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 27-18-106(a), concerning fees paid for driver education, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) For ~~any of~~ the purposes set out in § 27-18-101, the Arkansas State Police Commission is authorized to charge a fee ~~of five dollars (\$5.00)~~ for ~~any student of~~ the driver education course in the following amounts:

(A) Five dollars (\$5.00) for a student of:

(i) An accredited high school;

~~(B)~~ (ii) A state or privately supported college, university, or junior college; ~~and or~~

~~(C)~~(iii) ~~Any~~ A vocational-technical training school engaging in the driver education course; ~~and~~

~~(2)~~(B) ~~The commission is further authorized to charge a fee of ten~~ Ten dollars (\$10.00) for any other person ~~engaging in the driver education course for the purposes set out in § 27-18-101.~~

~~(3)~~(2) Upon determination that a student or qualified prospective student of the driver education course is unable to pay the fee authorized by this section, the commission shall waive the fee, as it is the purpose and intent of this chapter to provide driver education for the citizens of Arkansas.

(3) The commission shall waive the fee authorized by this section for a child in foster care or an unaccompanied homeless youth certified under § 9-25-106.

/s/Scott