

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

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

A Bill

SENATE BILL 3

By: Senator J. English

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF A DEPENDENT FOR PURPOSES OF HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS; TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; TO AMEND THE ELIGIBILITY FOR THE PRIORITIZATION OF AN ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF A DEPENDENT FOR PURPOSES OF HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS; AND TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-82-601(a)(1), concerning the definition of a "dependent" for purposes of tuition waivers, is amended to read as follows:

(1) (A) "Dependent" means a:

(i) A spouse ~~or any~~ of a:

(a) Disabled veteran;

(b) Prisoner of war; or

(c) Person declared to be:

(1) Missing in action;

(2) Killed in action; or

(3) Killed on ordnance delivery;

(ii) A child born to or conceived by a:



- (a) Disabled veteran;
- (b) Prisoner of war; or
- (c) Person declared to be:
 - (1) Missing in action;
 - (2) Killed in action; or
 - (3) Killed on ordnance delivery;

(iii) A child legally adopted by, ~~or~~ a:

- (a) Disabled veteran;
- (b) Prisoner of war; or
- (c) Person declared to be:
 - (1) Missing in action;
 - (2) Killed in action; or
 - (3) Killed on ordnance delivery;

(iv) A child who is under the legal guardianship of a prisoner;

- (a) Disabled veteran;
- (b) Prisoner of war; or person
- (c) Person declared to be missing:
 - (1) Missing in action ~~or killed;~~
 - (2) Killed in action ~~or killed;~~ or
 - (3) Killed on ordnance delivery, ~~or~~

disabled veteran; or

(v) A stepchild of a:

- (a) Disabled veteran;
- (b) Prisoner of war; or
- (c) Person declared to be:
 - (1) Missing in action;
 - (2) Killed in action; or
 - (3) Killed on ordnance delivery.

(B)(i) The ~~A~~ dependent child ~~or spouse~~ of a ~~prisoner of war, veteran missing in action, or killed in action or killed on ordnance delivery, or disabled veteran~~ must the following shall be a current resident of Arkansas. ~~Stepchildren of the veteran are not eligible unless they have been legally adopted by the veteran or the veteran has been appointed as the legal guardian of the stepchild.~~

- (a) A disabled veteran;

- (b) A prisoner of war; or
- (c) A person declared to be:
 - (1) Missing in action;
 - (2) Killed in action; or
 - (3) Killed on ordnance delivery.

(ii) A dependent child ~~must~~ shall meet the definition of dependent child as established by the United States Department of Education;

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(d)(6), concerning the prioritization of scholarship awards under the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, is amended to read as follows:

(6) The division shall give priority for a scholarship award to a full-time or part-time student:

(A) Who meets the eligibility requirements under this subchapter; and

(B) ~~(i) Whose parent, by birth or legal adoption~~ Who is a dependent of an individual who:

~~(i)(a)~~ (a) Was a resident of the State of Arkansas at the time that person entered the service of the United States Armed Forces or whose official residence is in Arkansas; and

~~(i)(b)~~ (b) Was a member of the United States Armed Forces who was killed while performing military duty:

~~(a)(1)~~ (1) In a status identified under 32 U.S.C. § 101 et seq. or 10 U.S.C. § 101 et seq. as they existed on January 1, 2011; or

~~(b)(2)~~ (2) In state active duty status.

(ii) As used in this subdivision (d)(6)(B), a "dependent" means one (1) of the following of an individual who meets the conditions established under this subdivision (d)(6)(B)(i):

- (a) A biological child;
- (b) An adopted child; or
- (c) A stepchild.