

Financial Aid

Arkansas Department of Higher Education
Rules Governing The Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program

Policy Statement

These rules shall be known as the Arkansas ~~Department~~ Division of Higher Education Rules Governing the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship. This policy addresses the student eligibility criteria, method for recipient selection, continuing eligibility requirements, procedures for making payments to an approved institution of higher education, and other administrative procedures necessary for operation of the program.

Applicable Arkansas Code

Ark. Code Ann. § 6-85-302 et seq.

Definitions

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

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

(B) 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.

(2) (A) "Certificate program" means a program that is offered or made available to a student by an approved institution of higher education that leads to the obtainment of a certification or license, including without limitation a program operated or sponsored by a third party.

(B) The credit hours or contact hours awarded for a certificate program ~~may include~~ may include credit hours or contact hours that are not creditable toward an associate or a baccalaureate degree.

Funding

(1) For an academic year, the following shall be used to fund Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarships under these rules:

(A) Excess funding returned to the Office of the Arkansas Lottery under Ark. Code Ann. ~~§ 6-85-212(e)(2)(B)(i)~~ § 6-85-212(d)(2)(B)(i) from the previous academic year; and

(B) Net proceeds remaining from the previous academic year after the Office of the Arkansas Lottery:

- (i) Transfers the funds requested by the ~~Department~~ Division of Higher Education under Ark. Code Ann. § 23-115-801(c)(2); and
- (ii) Deposits the amount necessary to maintain the Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust Account under Ark. Code Ann. § 23-115-802 in an amount equal to twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000).

(2) A scholarship under these rules shall not be awarded for an academic year if:

(A) Less than two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) is available under subsection (1) of this section; or

(B) The ~~Department~~ Division of Higher Education received a loan from the Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust Account under Ark. Code Ann. § 23-115-802 for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program -- Part 2, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-85-201 et seq., for the previous academic year.

(3) Any funds under subsection (1) of this section that are not disbursed for scholarships under these rules shall be carried over to the next academic year to be used for scholarships under these rules.

Procedures

Eligibility Requirements.

(1) A student is eligible to receive an Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship for an academic year if the student applies to the ~~Department~~ Division of Higher Education by a date determined by the ~~Department~~ Division of Higher Education preceding the academic year and:

(A) Is an Arkansas resident or, if the student is less than twenty-one (21) years of age, either a parent of the student or the student is an Arkansas resident;

(B) Meets either of the following requirements:

- (i) Graduated from a:

- (a) Public high school in Arkansas or another state;
- (b) Private high school in Arkansas or another state; or
- (c) Home school as recognized under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-501 et seq. or recognized by another state; or
- (ii) Received a high school equivalency diploma approved by the Arkansas ~~Department of Career Education~~ Division of Workforce Services or another state;

(C) Is not receiving a scholarship under the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program -- Part 2, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-85-201 et seq.;

(D) Is accepted for admission in a program of study at an approved institution of higher education that leads to an associate degree or a certificate program in one (1) of the following high-demand fields:

- (i) Industry;
- (ii) Health care; and
- (iii) Information technology; and

- (E) (i) Whose program of study or certificate program will result in the student's being qualified to work in an occupation identified by the Arkansas ~~Department~~ Division of Workforce Services under subdivision (1)(E)(ii)(a) of this section.
- (ii) (a) The ~~Department~~ Division of Workforce Services shall provide annually to the ~~Department~~ Division of Higher Education by March 1 a list that identifies the five (5) most in-demand occupations in this state in each high-demand field under subdivision (1)(D) of this section that require the completion of a program of study that leads to an associate degree or a certificate program.
- (b) The ~~Department~~ Division of Workforce Services shall publish on its website the list under subdivision (1)(E)(ii)(a) of this section and data supporting the list.

(2) A student who received a scholarship under these rules and successfully completed a program of study or certificate program that meets the requirements under subdivision (1)(D) of this section is eligible to reapply for a scholarship under these rules if the student is accepted for admission in a different program of study or certificate program that meets the requirements under subdivision (1)(D) of this section.

(3) A student who received a scholarship under these rules and does not successfully complete the program of study or certificate program is eligible to reapply for and receive a scholarship one (1) time only.

Distribution – Award Amounts.

- (1) If funds are available, the ~~Department~~ Division of Higher Education (~~“Department”~~ “Division”) shall distribute Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarships to all students who meet the eligibility requirements.
- (2) (A) The ~~Department~~ Division shall distribute scholarships from the funds available in an equal amount to every student eligible to receive a scholarship.
- (B) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, the maximum scholarship award a student may receive in an academic year shall be the lesser of:
- (i) Eight hundred dollars (\$800); or
 - (ii) (a) The cost of the certificate program or program of study.
(b) The cost of a certificate program or program of study shall be limited to:
 - 1) Tuition, fees, or other charges;
 - 2) Textbooks or other course materials; and
 - 3) Equipment needed for a course.
- (C) The scholarship awards may be used for expenses included in the cost of the certificate program or program of study.
- (D) A scholarship under this section shall be only for the academic year for which it is awarded.
- (3) (A) If the ~~department~~ division has funds remaining after making the distributions under subsection (2) of this section, the ~~department~~ division shall distribute scholarships to students for the summer term of the academic year.
- (B) If funds are available under subdivision (3)(A) of this section, a student shall apply for a scholarship for a summer term by a date determined by the ~~department~~ division preceding the summer term.
- (C) (i) The ~~department~~ division shall distribute scholarships for a summer term in the same manner as under subsection (2) of this section.
(ii) Scholarships for a summer term may be used in the same manner as under subsection (2) of this section.
- (D) A student who received a scholarship under subsection (2) of this section may also receive a scholarship for a summer term.
- (4) The ~~department~~ division shall disburse scholarship awards on behalf of an eligible student directly to the approved institution of higher education.

Institutional Responsibilities.

(1) College/University Responsibilities

(A) Administrative Agreement

The chief executive officer of the eligible institution is responsible for appointing one representative from the financial aid office to act as administrator of the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship and to receive all communications, forms, etc. This representative is responsible for verification, data and compliance with all program rules and regulations. The institution must comply with all rules and regulations in order to maintain continued eligibility status.

(B) Disbursement Records

The institution shall maintain information on the student indicating disbursement of scholarship funds.

(C) Institutional Verification

The institution shall provide certification of enrollment in eligible program of study and enrollment in courses that will meet satisfactory academic progress standards, as of the eleventh day of classes, by completing a Verification Roster each semester after registration. The Verification Roster is an alphabetical listing by institution of all persons receiving the award for a given academic term. The certifying official is responsible for completing the verification rosters each semester or trimester. The Arkansas ~~Department~~ Division of Higher Education shall provide electronic Verification Rosters to the Financial Aid Administrator for each semester or trimester as needed. The electronic Verification Rosters shall be returned to the Arkansas ~~Department~~ Division of Higher Education by November 1 for the fall term and by March 15 for the spring term. The Arkansas ~~Department~~ Division of Higher Education shall also provide electronic continuing eligibility rosters to the Financial Aid Administrator before the end of the fall and spring term. The continuing eligibility rosters shall be returned to the Arkansas ~~Department~~ Division of Higher Education no later than January 15 based on the Fall semester and June 1 based on the Spring semester to ensure that adequate time is provided to notify students of their status in the program.

(D) Deadlines for Disbursement of Funds

The deadline for disbursement of funds by the eligible institution is no later than 10 days after receipt of funds. Any outstanding funds not disbursed by these dates must be returned to the Arkansas ~~Department~~ Division of Higher Education. For those students whose applications are received by ADHE too late to allow disbursement by these dates, disbursement will be made within 10 working days of receipt of the verification roster and electronic transfer of funds.

(E) Due Diligence

The institution will exercise due diligence in providing complete, accurate, and timely information as requested by the Arkansas ~~Department~~ Division of Higher Education on any Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship recipient or former recipient. In addition, the institution will exercise due diligence in complying with all the rules and regulations of the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship. The Arkansas ~~Department~~ Division of Higher Education shall periodically review the institution's records concerning this program in an effort to exercise its due diligence requirements as a steward of state funds.

(F) 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 these rules to take courses at the other institutions of higher education.

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

As Engrossed: S3/30/21

A Bill

SENATE BILL 584

By: Senators Hickey, L. Eads, Irvin, J. English
By: Representative Cozart

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - PART 2; TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES
AND FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CREATION OR
AMENDMENT OF SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDED WITH NET REVENUE
AVAILABLE; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; TO ESTABLISH
PROCEDURES AND FUNDING REQUIREMENTS TO
CREATE OR AMEND SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDED WITH
NET REVENUE AVAILABLE; AND TO DECLARE AN
EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 85, Subchapter 2, is amended
to read as follows:

Subchapter 2 — Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program — ~~Part 2~~

6-85-201. Findings.

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) In approving Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 87, the
citizens of this state provided an opportunity to increase the resources
provided for higher education scholarships and grants through a state



1 lottery;

2 (2) The net proceeds from the state lottery, in addition to
3 existing nonlottery state educational resources for scholarships and grants,
4 will:

5 (A) Encourage associate degree, certificate of proficiency
6 program, and technical certificate program recipients and university juniors
7 to complete a baccalaureate degree;

8 (B) Provide opportunities for students more than one (1)
9 year out of high school to enter or reenter higher education;

10 (C) Provide an improved system of communication to
11 students and parents about opportunities for higher education scholarships
12 and grants in Arkansas; and

13 (D) Provide an evaluation and analysis of all state
14 funding for scholarships and grants and how the funding advances the state's
15 goals for higher education; and

16 (3) Changes to the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship
17 Program — ~~Part 2~~ may be necessary from time to time to ensure the solvency of
18 the program by spreading the program liabilities over a period of time while
19 ensuring that there are scholarship dollars available for students who
20 successfully complete their courses.

21
22 6-85-202. Creation.

23 The Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program — ~~Part 2~~ is hereby
24 created and established.

25
26 6-85-203. Applicability.

27 ~~(a) This subchapter is applicable to students who apply for a~~
28 ~~scholarship under the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program — Part~~
29 ~~2 for the academic year 2010-2011 and each academic year thereafter.~~

30 ~~(b) Except to the extent of an award amount under § 6-85-107(b)(2), a~~
31 ~~recipient of a scholarship under the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship~~
32 ~~Program — Part 1, § 6-85-101 et seq., is not eligible for an additional~~
33 ~~scholarship under this subchapter.~~

34 ~~(c) Recipients of Arkansas Governor's Distinguished Scholarships are~~
35 ~~prohibited from receiving Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarships under this~~
36 ~~subchapter.~~

6-85-204. Definitions.

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "ACT" means the ACT ~~Assessment~~ administered by ACT, Inc.;

(2) "ACT equivalent" means the SAT, COMPASS, ~~Accuplacer~~ ACCUPLACER, or other nationally normed test that is correlated with the ACT and approved by the Division of Higher Education for use by institutions of higher education to assess a person's college readiness;

(3) "Approved institution of higher education" means an institution of higher education approved by the division to participate in the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program — ~~Part 2~~ and that is:

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

(B) 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

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

(4) "Approved school of nursing" means a school of nursing with its primary headquarters located in Arkansas that:

(A) Prepares students as registered nurses;

(B) Grants nursing diplomas;

(C) Is eligible to participate in the Higher Education Act of 1965, Title IV federal student aid programs;

(D) Is approved by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing;

(E) Has been approved by the division as eligible to participate in the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program; and

(F) Is not a two-year or four-year college or university;

(5) "Arkansas resident" means a natural person who provides evidence deemed sufficient by the division that:

(A) For the twelve-month period required under § 6-85-206(1), the person:

(i) Maintained a permanent home in Arkansas where the person resides for an average of no less than four (4) days and nights per calendar week; and

(ii) Either:

1 (a) Is an Arkansas registered voter;
2 (b) Holds a valid Arkansas motor vehicle
3 driver's license;
4 (c) Receives benefits under an Arkansas public
5 assistance program;
6 (d) Uses an Arkansas residence address for
7 federal or state tax purposes; or
8 (e) Claims Arkansas as a residence to hold
9 public office or for judicial actions; or
10 (B) Before the deadline for filing a scholarship
11 application under this subchapter the applicant:
12 (i) Is on active military status;
13 (ii) Qualifies for in-state tuition and fees under §
14 6-60-205; and
15 (iii) Meets one (1) of the conditions under
16 subdivision (5)(A)(ii) of this section;
17 (6) "Continuously enrolled" means:
18 (A) For a traditional student, he or she successfully
19 completes at an approved institution of higher education twenty-seven (27)
20 semester hours in the first academic year as a recipient and, except as
21 provided in ~~§ 6-85-212(e)(1)(A)(iv)(e)~~ § 6-85-212(d)(1)(A)(iv)(c),
22 successfully completes thirty (30) semester hours each academic year
23 thereafter;
24 (B) For a full-time nontraditional student, he or she
25 successfully completes at an approved institution of higher education at
26 least fifteen (15) semester hours of courses in consecutive semesters;
27 ~~(C) For a full-time current achiever student, he or she:~~
28 ~~(i) Before receiving a scholarship under this~~
29 ~~subchapter, successfully completed at least twelve (12) semester hours of~~
30 ~~courses in consecutive semesters; and~~
31 ~~(ii) As a recipient of a scholarship under this~~
32 ~~subchapter, successfully completes at an approved institution of higher~~
33 ~~education at least fifteen (15) semester hours of courses in consecutive~~
34 ~~semesters;~~
35 ~~(D)(C)~~ For a part-time nontraditional student, he or she
36 successfully completes at an approved institution of higher education at

1 least six (6) semester hours of courses in consecutive semesters; and

2 ~~(E)(D)~~ For a student who is enrolled in a degree plan that
3 has a maximum number of semester hours in a semester that is less than the
4 requirements of subdivisions ~~(6)(A)-(D)~~ (6)(A)-(C) of this section, he or she
5 successfully completes at an approved institution of higher education the
6 maximum number of hours required by the degree plan for the semester;

7 ~~(7)~~ “Current achiever student” means a student:

8 ~~(A)~~ Who meets the requirements of § 6-85-209; and

9 ~~(B)~~ Is not a traditional student or a nontraditional
10 student;

11 ~~(8)~~ “End-of-course assessment” means an examination taken at the
12 completion of a course of study to determine whether a student demonstrates
13 attainment of the knowledge and skills necessary for mastery of that subject;

14 ~~(9)~~(7) “Enrolled” means that the approved institution of higher
15 education where the student is attending class counts the student as enrolled
16 for the hours claimed on the last day to add or drop a class at the approved
17 institution of higher education;

18 ~~(10)~~ “High school equivalency test” means a test measuring the
19 knowledge and skills usually learned in high school that is administered by a
20 state-approved institution or organization;

21 ~~(11)~~(8) “High school grade point average” means the numbered
22 grade average on a student’s high school transcript calculated:

23 (A) For a traditional student, using the first seven (7)
24 of the last eight (8) semesters the student completed prior to graduating
25 high school; or

26 (B) For a nontraditional student, using the last eight (8)
27 semesters the student completed before graduating high school;

28 ~~(12)~~(9) “Lawful permanent resident” means a non-United States
29 citizen who resides in the United States under a legally recognized and
30 lawfully recorded permanent residence and who may receive state public
31 benefits under 8 U.S.C. § 1622;

32 ~~(13)~~(10) “Net proceeds from the state lottery” means lottery
33 proceeds for one (1) fiscal year less the operating expenses defined in § 23-
34 115-103 for the fiscal year;

35 ~~(14)~~(11) “Nonlottery state educational resources” means the
36 funding available for state-supported scholarships and grants for students

1 enrolled in postsecondary education in this state that:

2 (A) The General Assembly makes available from general
3 revenue to the Higher Education Grants Fund Account without consideration of
4 the availability of proceeds from the state lottery; and

5 (B) The Department of Finance and Administration estimates
6 is available for distribution to the Higher Education Grants Fund Account
7 during a fiscal year from the Educational Excellence Trust Fund;

8 ~~(15) "Nontraditional student" means a student who is not a~~
9 ~~traditional student or a current achiever student;~~

10 ~~(16) "Personally identifiable student data" means any~~
11 ~~information that, alone or in combination with other available information,~~
12 ~~is linked or linkable to a specific student that would allow a reasonable~~
13 ~~person in the student's school community to identify the student with~~
14 ~~reasonable certainty;~~

15 ~~(17) "Postsecondary grade point average" means the cumulative~~
16 ~~numbered grade average for college credit courses as calculated using a 4.0~~
17 ~~scale;~~

18 ~~(18)~~ (12) "Qualified certificate program" means a program:

19 (A) That is offered by an approved institution of higher
20 education;

21 (B) For which credit hours are awarded that are creditable
22 toward an associate degree or baccalaureate degree; and

23 (C) Recognized by the United States Department of
24 Education for financial aid purposes;

25 ~~(19)~~ (13) "Recipient" means an applicant awarded a scholarship
26 funded through the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program — Part 2;

27 ~~(20) "Scholarship hold" means the temporary suspension of a~~
28 ~~scholarship award to a traditional student under this subchapter approved by~~
29 ~~the division under § 6-85-221;~~

30 ~~(21)~~ (14) "Semester" means one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of a traditional academic
31 year at an institution of higher education, or an equivalent approved by the
32 division, in which a student enrolls for not less than:

33 (A) Fifteen (15) credit hours as a full-time student,
34 except that in the first semester as a first-time full-time freshman, a
35 traditional student shall enroll in not less than twelve (12) credit hours;
36 or

1 (B) Six (6) credit hours as a part-time student;

2 ~~(22) "Smart Core" means:~~

3 ~~(A) The college and career readiness curriculum by that~~
4 ~~name under rules of the State Board of Education; or~~

5 ~~(B) A college and career readiness curriculum that is:~~

6 ~~(i) Established by rules of the State Board of~~
7 ~~Education in coordination with the division; and~~

8 ~~(ii) Substituted for the curriculum named "Smart~~
9 ~~Core";~~

10 ~~(23)~~ (15) "State-supported student financial assistance" means a
11 state-supported scholarship, grant, tuition waiver, or tuition reimbursement
12 funded with state funds or net proceeds from the state lottery awarded by:

13 (A) The division; or

14 (B) A scholarship or grant awarded by an institution of
15 higher education in this state in whole or in part by state funds, including
16 without limitation:

17 (i) Scholarships awarded on the basis of entrance
18 exam scores or high school academic achievement;

19 (ii) Tuition waivers based on age, military service,
20 occupation, or other factors;

21 (iii) Out-of-state tuition waivers for undergraduate
22 students from contiguous states in close proximity to a college or
23 university;

24 (iv) Scholarships for transfers from two-year
25 institutions;

26 (v) Performance scholarships for band, musical
27 performing groups, arts, theater, forensics, and similar activities that are
28 not awarded on the basis of entrance exam scores or high school academic
29 achievement; and

30 (vi) Any other publicly funded program under which
31 students are not charged or are reimbursed by the institution of higher
32 education for tuition, fees, books, or other costs of attendance;

33 ~~(24) "Successfully completed" means that a student completed a~~
34 ~~course at an institution of higher education and received the equivalent of a~~
35 ~~minimum letter grade of "D";~~

36 ~~(25)~~ (16) (A) "Superscore" means the final composite score that is

1 calculated according to a combination of the highest individual section
2 scores across all of the ACT tests taken by an individual.

3 (B)(i) The division shall promulgate rules in consultation
4 with ACT, Inc. to determine the mechanism for calculating and disseminating
5 an applicant's superscore on the ACT.

6 (ii) However, a rule promulgated under subdivision
7 (16)(B)(i) of this section shall not result in a negative amount of net
8 revenue available; and

9 ~~(26)(A)~~ (17)(A) "Supplant" means that the net proceeds from the
10 state lottery are used in place of, not in addition to, state nonlottery
11 educational resources provided for state-supported student financial
12 assistance for a specified fiscal year.

13 (B) Supplanting does not occur if the General Assembly
14 provided the state nonlottery educational resources as if the lotteries under
15 the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery Act, § 23-115-101 et seq., do not exist; and

16 ~~(27)(A)~~ (18)(A) "Traditional student" means a student who:

17 (i) Will enter postsecondary education as a full-
18 time first-time freshman on or before the fall semester of the academic year
19 that begins immediately following:

20 (a) The student's graduation from high school;
21 or

22 (b) The last day of the school year:

23 (1) That would have been the student's
24 junior or senior year of high school; and

25 (2) In which the student completes the
26 requirements for high school graduation and obtains a Certificate of General
27 Educational Development instead of receiving a diploma; and

28 (ii) Remains continuously enrolled as a full-time
29 student.

30 (B) "Traditional student" includes a student who otherwise
31 meets this definition but delays entering postsecondary education under a
32 scholarship hold approved by the division.

33 ~~(C) "Traditional student" does not include a current~~
34 ~~achiever student.~~

35
36 6-85-205. Authority and duties of the Division of Higher Education.

1 (a) The Division of Higher Education shall develop and promulgate
2 rules for the administration of the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship
3 Program consistent with the purposes and requirements of this subchapter.

4 (b) The rules developed and promulgated by the Division of Higher
5 Education under this section shall pertain to:

6 (1) Student eligibility criteria based on this subchapter;

7 (2) The method for selecting scholarship recipients and for
8 determining continuing eligibility;

9 (3) The procedures for making payment to an approved institution
10 of higher education where the recipient is enrolled; and

11 (4) Other administrative procedures that may be necessary for
12 the implementation and operation of the program.

13 (c) The Division of Higher Education shall implement a complete
14 financial aid management system that uses a single application form that may
15 be accessed as a web-based application for all Arkansas state-supported
16 student financial assistance administered by the Division of Higher
17 Education, including:

18 (1) Scholarships awarded under this subchapter or other state
19 law that are funded with net proceeds from the state lottery; and

20 (2) Scholarships, grants, or other financial assistance for
21 higher education students funded with nonlottery state educational resources.

22 (d)(1) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education and the
23 Division of Higher Education ~~are directed to~~ shall develop appropriate
24 informational materials on the ~~Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship~~
25 ~~Program~~ program and ~~to~~ ensure distribution of the materials to Arkansas
26 students in grade seven through grade twelve (7-12) each year as a part of
27 the packet of materials on precollegiate preparation distributed by the
28 Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board under § 6-61-217 and by the
29 Division of Elementary and Secondary Education under the Higher Education
30 Awareness Act of 1993, § 6-5-401 et seq.

31 (2) The distribution of informational materials under this
32 section shall be accomplished through the collaboration of school counselors
33 and other appropriate public school or Division of Higher Education
34 personnel.

35 (3) The Division of Higher Education shall provide a copy of the
36 informational materials developed under this section to the Legislative

1 Council for review.

2 (e) The Director of the Division of Higher Education shall review and
3 evaluate the operation of the program with regard to eligibility criteria and
4 size of the scholarship award to ensure that the program's operation meets
5 the intent of this subchapter.

6 ~~(f) The Division of Higher Education may determine the necessary~~
7 ~~procedures for the awarding of scholarships if the number of eligible~~
8 ~~applicants exceeds the funds available based on the criteria under this~~
9 ~~subchapter.~~

10 ~~(g)(1)(A)(f)(1)(A)~~ By July 15 of each year, the ~~Director of the~~
11 ~~Division of Higher Education~~ director shall provide a report to the
12 Legislative Council on:

13 (i) The implementation of this subchapter;
14 (ii) The number of recipients that either:
15 (a) Dropped out during the academic year; or
16 (b) Lost the scholarship during the academic
17 year; and

18 (iii) Any additional information requested by the
19 Legislative Council.

20 (B) The Legislative Council shall include the information
21 reported under this subsection in its annual report to the General Assembly
22 under § 6-85-220.

23 (2) By August 1 of each year, the Division of Higher Education
24 shall provide to the Legislative Council an unaudited financial report on the
25 administration of the ~~Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program~~ program
26 for the fiscal year just ended.

27
28 6-85-206. Basic eligibility requirements.

29 The basic requirements for an applicant to be eligible for an award
30 from the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program — ~~Part 2~~ are:

31 (1)(A) The applicant has been an Arkansas resident for at least
32 the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the date the applicant will
33 enroll in an approved institution of higher education.

34 (B) If the applicant is less than twenty-one (21) years of
35 age, either the applicant or a parent or guardian of the applicant shall have
36 maintained Arkansas residency for at least the twelve (12) months immediately

1 preceding the date the applicant will enroll in an approved institution of
2 higher education.

3 (C)(i) To be considered an Arkansas resident, an applicant
4 shall demonstrate residency by evidence deemed sufficient to the Division of
5 Higher Education.

6 (ii) Evidence of residency may include without
7 limitation information provided by the applicant on the Free Application for
8 Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or a subsequent application required by the
9 United States Department of Education for federal financial aid.

10 (D) During the twelve (12) months immediately preceding
11 the date an applicant will enroll in an approved institution of higher
12 education if the person for whom the twelve-month period is calculated under
13 subdivision (1)(A) or subdivision (1)(B) of this section is deployed outside
14 of Arkansas under military orders, the division shall calculate the twelve
15 (12) months by:

16 (i) Excluding months of military deployment outside
17 of Arkansas that are within the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the
18 date the applicant will enroll in an approved institution of higher
19 education; and

20 (ii) Including months the person maintained Arkansas
21 residency immediately preceding the military deployment outside of Arkansas;

22 (2) The applicant is a citizen of the United States or is a
23 lawful permanent resident;

24 (3)(A) The applicant is accepted for admission as a full-time
25 student or part-time student at:

26 (i) An approved institution of higher education in a
27 program of study that leads to or is creditable toward:

28 (a) A baccalaureate degree;

29 (b) An associate degree;

30 (c) A certificate from a qualified certificate
31 program; or

32 (d) A graduate-level or professional degree;

33 or

34 (ii) An approved school of nursing in a program of
35 study that leads to a nursing diploma under § 6-85-213.

36 (B) A full-time student shall enroll in at least twenty-

1 seven (27) semester hours the first academic year and thirty (30) semester
2 hours per academic year thereafter or the equivalent, as described in this
3 subchapter, or the equivalent as defined by the division.

4 (C) A part-time student shall complete at least six (6)
5 semester hours but less than the minimum number of semester hours for a full-
6 time student, as defined by the division;

7 (4) The applicant has not met the maximum continuing education
8 eligibility requirements under § 6-85-210;

9 (5) The applicant does not owe a refund on a federal or state
10 student financial aid grant for higher education;

11 (6) The applicant is not in default on a state or federal
12 student financial aid loan for higher education;

13 (7) The applicant has not borrowed, as determined by the
14 approved institution of higher education to be attended, in excess of the
15 annual loan limits of the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program in the
16 same academic year for which the student has applied for assistance under
17 this subchapter;

18 (8) The applicant is not incarcerated at the time of the
19 application for or during the time the applicant receives a scholarship under
20 this subchapter;

21 (9) The applicant has complied with United States Selective
22 Service System requirements for registration;

23 (10) The applicant has completed and submitted to the United
24 States Department of Education a Free Application for Federal Student Aid
25 (FAFSA) or a subsequent application required by the United States Department
26 of Education for federal financial aid; and

27 (11) The applicant certifies that he or she is drug-free and
28 pledges in writing on the application form to refrain from the use or abuse
29 of illegal substances in order to become eligible and maintain eligibility
30 for ~~this program~~ the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program.

31
32 6-85-207. Additional eligibility requirements for traditional
33 students.

34 In addition to the basic eligibility requirements of § 6-85-206, an
35 applicant is eligible as a traditional student if the applicant:

36 (1)~~(A)~~ Graduated from an Arkansas public high school and has a

1 minimum superscore of nineteen (19) on the ACT or the equivalent score on an
2 ACT equivalent.

3 ~~(B) The Division of Higher Education shall promulgate~~
4 ~~rules in consultation with ACT, Inc. to determine the mechanism for~~
5 ~~calculating and disseminating an applicant's superscore on the ACT;~~

6 (2) Has a disability identified under the Individuals with
7 Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq., as it existed on July
8 1, 2009, and graduated from an Arkansas public high school, and either:

9 (A) Had a minimum composite score of nineteen (19) on the
10 ACT or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent; or

11 (B) Scored proficient or higher on all state-mandated end-
12 of-course assessments, including without limitation end-of-course assessments
13 on:

14 (i) Algebra I;

15 (ii) Geometry;

16 (iii) Biology; and

17 (iv) Literacy;

18 (3) Achieved a minimum superscore of nineteen (19) on the ACT or
19 the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent and:

20 (A) Graduated from a private high school, an out-of-state
21 high school, or a home school high school; or

22 (B) In the year in which the student would have been a
23 junior or senior in high school, completed the requirements for high school
24 graduation and obtained a high school equivalency diploma approved by the
25 Adult Education Section instead of receiving a diploma; or

26 (4) Meets the following criteria:

27 (A) Was enrolled at an institution of higher education in
28 the immediately preceding academic year as a full-time, first-time freshman;

29 (B) Did not receive a scholarship under this subchapter as
30 a full-time, first-time freshman;

31 (C) Successfully completed with the equivalent of a
32 minimum letter grade of "D" at least twenty-seven (27) semester hours of
33 courses as a full-time, first-time freshman; and

34 (D) Achieved a postsecondary grade point average of at
35 least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale as a full-time, first-time freshman.

1 6-85-208. Additional eligibility requirements for a nontraditional
2 student.

3 An applicant is eligible as a nontraditional student if, in addition to
4 the basic eligibility requirements of § 6-85-206, the applicant meets one (1)
5 of the following requirements:

6 (1) If the applicant has not been enrolled in an approved
7 institution of higher education, has either:

8 (A) Graduated from an Arkansas public high school and
9 achieved a 2.5 high school grade point average; or

10 (B) ~~(i)~~ Graduated from an Arkansas public high school, a
11 private high school, an out-of-state high school, a home school high school,
12 or obtained a high school equivalency diploma approved by the Adult Education
13 Section and had a superscore of nineteen (19) on the ACT or the equivalent
14 score on an ACT equivalent.

15 ~~(ii) The Division of Higher Education shall~~
16 ~~promulgate rules in consultation with ACT, Inc. to determine the mechanism~~
17 ~~for calculating and disseminating an applicant's superscore on the ACT; or~~

18 (2) If the applicant has been enrolled in an approved
19 institution of higher education, has earned a postsecondary grade point
20 average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.

21
22 ~~6-85-209. Additional eligibility requirements for a current achiever~~
23 ~~student.~~

24 ~~(a) In addition to the requirements of § 6-85-206, an applicant is~~
25 ~~eligible as a current achiever student if the applicant:~~

26 ~~(1) Entered postsecondary education before the 2010-2011~~
27 ~~academic year.~~

28 ~~(A) As a full-time first-time freshman student; and~~

29 ~~(B) Within twelve (12) months after graduating high~~
30 ~~school; and~~

31 ~~(2) At the time of applying for the scholarship.~~

32 ~~(A)(i) Has been continuously enrolled at an institution of~~
33 ~~higher education as a full-time student.~~

34 ~~(ii) In calculating continuous enrollment under this~~
35 ~~section, the Division of Higher Education may include one (1) or more courses~~
36 ~~taken during the summer that meet the criteria for a course under subdivision~~

~~(a)(2)(B)(ii) of this section;~~

~~(B)(i) Has successfully completed at least twelve (12) semester hours of courses granting three (3) or more hours of credit per course at an approved institution of higher education.~~

~~(ii) A course granting less than three (3) hours of credit may be counted toward the twelve (12) semester hours under this subdivision (2)(B) if it is related to a credit course required for a degree; and~~

~~(C) Has achieved a postsecondary grade point average of at least 2.5.~~

~~(b) The division may waive the requirements of subdivision (a)(1)(B) or subdivision (a)(2) of this section for eligibility under this section if an applicant does not meet those eligibility requirements due to the applicant's full-time duty in the active uniformed service of the United States, including members of the National Guard and reserve components of the United States Armed Forces on active duty or state active duty orders.~~

~~(c) This section also applies to an applicant who:~~

~~(1) Applied for a scholarship as a current achiever in the 2010-2011 academic year;~~

~~(2) Did not meet the eligibility requirements for a current achiever based on the continuous enrollment requirement of subdivision (a)(2) of this section as it existed on June 1, 2010; and~~

~~(3) Either:~~

~~(A) Received a scholarship under § 6-85-208 as a nontraditional student; or~~

~~(B) Did not receive a scholarship under this subchapter.~~

6-85-210. Continuing eligibility.

(a)(1)(A) A recipient who meets continuing eligibility criteria under this subchapter shall receive a scholarship for one (1) academic year renewable annually until the recipient has earned one hundred twenty (120) semester credit hours.

(B) A recipient may continue to receive a scholarship after he or she has earned one hundred twenty (120) semester credit hours, but not more than one hundred thirty (130) semester credit hours, if the student is enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program that requires more than

1 one hundred twenty (120) semester credit hours as provided under § 6-61-232.

2 (2) A semester in which a student withdraws or fails to complete
3 the number of credit hours for which the student first enrolled is counted
4 toward the maximum number of semesters for which the student may receive a
5 scholarship award under this subchapter.

6 (3) The maximums under this subsection apply to any degree
7 program, regardless of whether or not the degree program requires additional
8 semesters.

9 (4) A recipient may attend summer terms at the student's own
10 expense to earn credit hours necessary to maintain eligibility for a
11 scholarship under this subchapter.

12 (b) To maintain eligibility for an Arkansas Academic Challenge
13 Scholarship under this subchapter, a recipient shall ~~meet the following~~
14 ~~requirements:~~

15 (1) ~~A recipient shall continue~~ Continue to meet the relevant
16 eligibility requirements of this subchapter while a recipient of a
17 scholarship under this subchapter;

18 (2)(A)(i) ~~A recipient shall meet~~ Meet the satisfactory academic
19 progress standards required to receive other financial aid at the approved
20 institution of higher education where the recipient is enrolled, as
21 determined by the Division of Higher Education in conjunction with the
22 institution of higher education where the recipient is enrolled.

23 ~~(ii)(a)(B)(i)~~ (B)(i) A recipient who does not successfully
24 complete any credit hours toward degree completion in a semester in which he
25 or she received a scholarship under this subchapter immediately forfeits the
26 remainder of the scholarship award for that academic year.

27 ~~(b)(ii)~~ (b)(ii) The division shall notify the
28 recipient of the loss of eligibility under this subdivision ~~(b)(2)(A)(ii)~~
29 (b)(2)(B).

30 ~~(iii)(C)~~ (C) By accepting scholarship funds under this
31 subchapter, the receiving institution certifies that students will be
32 enrolled in courses that will meet satisfactory academic progress standards
33 leading toward a certificate, an associate degree, a nursing diploma, a
34 baccalaureate degree, or a graduate-level or professional degree;

35 ~~(B) The division may approve a leave of absence for a~~
36 ~~reason that includes without limitation:~~

1 ~~(i) A medical condition of the student or a member~~
2 ~~of the student's immediate family that, on the basis of a physician's good-~~
3 ~~faith judgment, necessitates the student or the student's immediate family~~
4 ~~member to be hospitalized or receive outpatient or home-based medical care or~~
5 ~~recuperation until released by the attending physician;~~

6 ~~(ii) A personal or family emergency that requires~~
7 ~~the student to:~~

8 ~~(a) Attend the funeral of an immediate family~~
9 ~~member; or~~

10 ~~(b) Visit a relative of the student if the~~
11 ~~relative has a medical condition in which death is possible or imminent;~~

12 ~~(iii) Military service under § 6-61-112;~~

13 ~~(iv)(a) A commitment for twelve (12) to twenty-four~~
14 ~~(24) months of service in a national or international humanitarian project~~
15 ~~sponsored by a nonprofit corporation organized with a charitable or~~
16 ~~educational purpose.~~

17 ~~(b) The student's commitment shall be~~
18 ~~expressed in a written agreement with the nonprofit organization including~~
19 ~~the terms of completion for the student's service on the related project.~~

20 ~~(c) The division shall release a scholarship~~
21 ~~hold if the division determines that the student did not complete the~~
22 ~~commitment under the written agreement; or~~

23 ~~(v) Any other reason approved by the division;~~

24 (3) ~~A recipient who enrolls in one (1) or more remedial courses~~
25 ~~shall complete~~ Complete all remedial courses required by the approved
26 institution of higher education by the time the student completes the first
27 thirty (30) semester hours attempted after receiving the scholarship if the
28 recipient is enrolled in one (1) or more remedial courses;

29 (4) ~~A recipient shall earn~~ Earn a postsecondary grade point
30 average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale at an approved institution of higher
31 education;

32 (5) ~~A recipient shall enroll~~ Enroll in courses that lead toward
33 a baccalaureate degree or graduate-level or professional degree after
34 attempting the lesser of:

35 (A) Five (5) semesters; or

36 (B) The completion of an associate degree program; and

1 (6) ~~A recipient shall meet~~ Meet any other continuing eligibility
2 criteria established by the division.

3 (c)(1) A traditional student recipient who loses eligibility for a
4 scholarship may apply as a first-time nontraditional student.

5 (2) A recipient under subdivision (c)(1) of this section who
6 loses eligibility for the nontraditional student scholarship is not eligible
7 to apply for a scholarship under any eligibility provision of this
8 subchapter.

9 (d) If a recipient is subject to losing a scholarship under subsection
10 (c) of this section due to a catastrophic event experienced by the recipient
11 or a family member of the recipient, the division may waive the requirements
12 of this section and determine the appropriate requirements for the recipient
13 to either retain or regain the scholarship.

14
15 ~~6-85-211. Literacy tutoring.~~

16 ~~(a) As an additional component to the Arkansas Academic Challenge~~
17 ~~Scholarship Program:~~

18 ~~(1) Each applicant for the scholarship shall agree that for each~~
19 ~~year the scholarship is awarded he or she may volunteer to serve as a~~
20 ~~literacy tutor for a minimum of twenty (20) clock hours each semester in a~~
21 ~~public school or a faith-based educational institution serving students in~~
22 ~~prekindergarten through grade six (preK-6);~~

23 ~~(2) A recipient who agrees to volunteer as a literacy tutor:~~

24 ~~(A) Shall complete the prerequisite training in literacy~~
25 ~~and college readiness skills provided under this section before he or she~~
26 ~~begins tutoring; and~~

27 ~~(B) May receive college credit for the tutoring as~~
28 ~~determined by the institution of higher education where the recipient is~~
29 ~~enrolled; and~~

30 ~~(3) An enrolled college student who participates in the tutorial~~
31 ~~program and fails to meet the academic eligibility requirement under this~~
32 ~~subchapter for the fall or spring semester shall be given the probationary~~
33 ~~opportunity during the subsequent spring or summer term to continue his or~~
34 ~~her education and improve academic performance before losing scholarship~~
35 ~~funding in the subsequent semester.~~

36 ~~(b) A recipient who agrees to volunteer as a literacy tutor under this~~

~~section shall receive the prerequisite training in literacy and college readiness from an approved institution of higher education based on training modules developed by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.~~

6-85-212. Scholarship award amounts.

(a) The General Assembly may use net proceeds from the state lottery to fund the scholarships awarded under this subchapter and to supplement the state-supported student financial assistance that the General Assembly determines is necessary to meet the state's objective for broadening and increasing access of Arkansas citizens to higher education.

(b) Net proceeds from the state lottery used to fund scholarships under this subchapter shall:

(1) Be used exclusively for the purposes set out in Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 87, and this subchapter; and

(2) Supplement and shall not supplant nonlottery state educational resources.

~~(c) It is the General Assembly's intent that before increasing award amounts for scholarships under this subchapter, the number of scholarships awarded to nontraditional students under § 6-85-208 be increased.~~

~~(d)~~(c) The scholarships established under this subchapter are subject to available funding and do not create for any student an entitlement to financial assistance to enable the student's attendance at an approved institution of higher education.

~~(e)(1)(A) Beginning with the 2016-2017 academic year, the~~ (d)(1)(A) Subject to the availability of net revenue, the scholarship award amount under this subchapter for an academic year for a full-time recipient enrolled in a four-year approved institution of higher education is:

(i) One thousand dollars (\$1,000) for a recipient who has earned less than twenty-seven (27) semester credit hours;

(ii) Four thousand dollars (\$4,000) for a recipient who has earned at least twenty-seven (27) semester credit hours but less than fifty-seven (57) semester credit hours;

(iii) Four thousand dollars (\$4,000) for a recipient who has earned at least fifty-seven (57) semester credit hours but less than eighty-seven (87) semester credit hours; and

(iv)(a) Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for a

1 recipient who has earned at least eighty-seven (87) semester credit hours but
2 no more than one hundred twenty (120) semester credit hours unless the
3 recipient is enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program that requires more
4 than one hundred twenty (120) semester credit hours, but not more than one
5 hundred thirty (130) semester credit hours, as provided under § 6-61-232,
6 then up to the number of credit hours required to complete the baccalaureate
7 program.

8 (b) A recipient shall receive no more than one
9 (1) year of the scholarship provided under subdivision ~~(e)(1)(A)(iv)(a)~~
10 (d)(1)(A)(iv)(a) of this section unless the recipient is enrolled in a
11 baccalaureate degree program that requires more than one hundred twenty (120)
12 semester credit hours as provided under § 6-61-232.

13 (c)(1) A recipient who is eligible to receive
14 the scholarship under subdivision ~~(e)(1)(A)(iv)(a)~~ (d)(1)(A)(iv)(a) of this
15 section may receive the scholarship while enrolled in a semester as a part-
16 time student.

17 (2) The scholarship amount for the
18 semester in which a recipient is enrolled as a part-time student under
19 subdivision ~~(e)(1)(A)(iv)(c)(1)~~ (d)(1)(A)(iv)(c)(1) of this section shall be
20 prorated by the number of credit hours in which the recipient is enrolled.

21 ~~(B) The Division of Higher Education shall not accept new~~
22 ~~applications for scholarships for current achiever students under § 6-85-209~~
23 ~~after June 1, 2012.~~

24 ~~(C)(i)(B)(i)~~ (C)(i)(B)(i) To determine the correct scholarship award
25 amount based on credit hours, a first-time recipient shall submit a current
26 college or university transcript if the first-time recipient has earned any
27 semester credit hours to the ~~division~~ Division of Higher Education no later
28 than a date determined by the division prior to the academic year for which
29 the first-time recipient will receive an initial scholarship award.

30 (ii) A first-time recipient who does not submit a
31 transcript to the division on or before June 1 shall receive the award amount
32 under subdivision ~~(e)(1)(A)(i)~~ (d)(1)(A)(i) of this section.

33 ~~(D)(i)(C)(i)~~ (D)(i)(C)(i) An applicant may elect for the earned
34 semester credit hours under subdivision ~~(e)(1)(A)~~ (d)(1)(A) of this section
35 to be only those semester credit hours earned after graduating from high
36 school or obtaining a high school equivalency diploma approved by the Adult

1 Education Section.

2 (ii) If an applicant makes the election under
3 subdivision ~~(e)(1)(D)(i)~~ (d)(1)(C)(i) of this section, any semester credit
4 hours earned through concurrent credit or any other method before graduating
5 high school or obtaining a high school equivalency diploma approved by the
6 Adult Education Section shall not be counted as earned semester credit hours
7 for the purposes of determining a recipient's scholarship award amount under
8 subdivision ~~(e)(1)(A)~~ (d)(1)(A) of this section.

9 (2)(A) The division shall award an aggregate amount of
10 scholarship awards to nontraditional students ~~beginning with the 2017-2018~~
11 ~~academic year~~ of up to fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000).

12 (B)(i) The division shall return to the Office of the
13 Arkansas Lottery the excess funding, if any, for scholarship awards under
14 this subchapter the division received under § 23-115-801.

15 (ii) The office shall deposit any funds received
16 from the division under this subdivision ~~(e)(2)(B)(d)(2)(B)~~ into a ~~trust~~
17 ~~account~~ the Lottery Scholarship Trust Account established under § 23-115-
18 801(b).

19 (C) Priority for scholarships awarded to nontraditional
20 students ~~and current achiever students~~ is based on:

21 (i) The applicant's level of progress toward
22 completion of a certificate, an associate degree, a nursing diploma, a
23 baccalaureate degree, or a graduate-level or professional degree; or

24 (ii) Other criteria established by the division.

25 (3) The Subject to the availability of net revenue, the
26 scholarship award for an academic year for a full-time student enrolled in
27 one (1) of the following institutions of higher education is one thousand
28 dollars (\$1,000) for the first year and three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for
29 the second year:

30 (A) A two-year approved institution of higher education;

31 (B) A branch campus of a four-year approved institution of
32 higher education; or

33 (C) An approved ~~nursing school~~ school of nursing.

34 (4) The Subject to the availability of net revenue, the
35 scholarship award amount for a part-time student recipient shall be:

36 (A) One-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of the award amount for a full-time

1 student recipient, if the recipient is enrolled in at least six (6) semester
2 hours but less than nine (9) semester hours; or

3 (B) Three-quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the award amount for a full-time
4 student recipient, if the recipient is enrolled in at least nine (9) semester
5 hours but less than the number of hours required for a full-time student
6 recipient.

7 (5) A current recipient who maintains eligibility for the
8 scholarship under this subchapter shall continue to receive the scholarship
9 award amount first awarded to the recipient.

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

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

14 (B) Whose parent, by birth or legal adoption:

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

18 (ii) Was a member of the United States Armed Forces
19 who was killed while performing military duty:

20 (a) In a status identified under 32 U.S.C. §
21 101 et seq. or 10 U.S.C. § 101 et seq. as they existed on January 1, 2011; or

22 (b) In state active duty status.

23 ~~(f)~~(e) Annually by December 15, the Legislative Council shall provide
24 to the General Assembly its recommendations for any changes to the:

25 (1) Award amounts;

26 (2) Number or type of scholarships; and

27 (3) Eligibility requirements.

28 ~~(g)~~(f) It is the intent of the General Assembly that in determining
29 award amounts under this subchapter the General Assembly will consider
30 whether sufficient funds will be available to pay for scholarship awards
31 through the anticipated completion of the degree or certificate a recipient
32 is seeking.

33 ~~(h)~~(g) All awards under this subchapter are subject to the prohibition
34 under § 6-80-105 against using public funds in a student financial package in
35 excess of the recognized cost of attendance at the institution where the
36 student is enrolled.

1 ~~(i)(1)~~(h)(1) If the division has less than a sufficient amount from
2 net proceeds from the state lottery to provide for the scholarship
3 commitments under this subchapter, the division shall give priority for
4 continued financial support under this subchapter to a student with
5 continuing eligibility superior to first-time applicants.

6 (2) If the funding is insufficient to fully fund the
7 scholarships for students with continuing eligibility created under this
8 subchapter, the division shall award scholarships based upon the following
9 criteria to students with continuing eligibility as follows:

10 (A) First, to students who have the highest level of
11 progress toward completion of a certificate, an associate degree, a
12 baccalaureate degree, or a graduate-level or professional degree, and who are
13 enrolled in a program of study that is:

14 (i) In an area of critical workforce need as
15 determined by the division; or

16 (ii) In a science, technology, engineering, or
17 mathematics field;

18 (B) Second, to students who have the highest level of
19 progress toward completion of a certificate, an associate degree, a
20 baccalaureate degree, or a graduate-level or professional degree, and who are
21 enrolled in a program of study other than those listed in subdivision
22 ~~(i)(2)(A)~~ (h)(2)(A) of this section; and

23 (C) Last, in the event funding is insufficient to fully
24 fund students under subdivision ~~(i)(2)(A)~~ (h)(2)(A) or subdivision ~~(i)(2)(B)~~
25 (h)(2)(B) of this section, to students who have the highest postsecondary
26 grade point average.

27 (3)(A) If, after funding all students with continuing
28 eligibility under this section, funding is insufficient to fund all qualified
29 first-time applicants, the division shall award scholarships to first-time
30 applicants in order of priority based upon the applicants' ACT superscore or
31 ACT-equivalent superscore.

32 (B) If, after prioritizing first-time applicants based
33 upon the applicants' ACT or ACT equivalent scores, funding is insufficient to
34 fund all applicants with like ACT or ACT equivalent scores, the division
35 shall determine who receives an award by random drawing.

36 ~~(j)—[Repealed.]~~

1
2 6-85-213. Nursing school eligibility.

3 (a)(1) The General Assembly recognizes that the State of Arkansas is
4 experiencing a critical shortage of nurses.

5 (2) It is the intent of this section to allow the Division of
6 Higher Education the opportunity, under specific circumstances, to include an
7 approved school of nursing that would not otherwise be an approved
8 institution of higher education in the Arkansas Academic Challenge
9 Scholarship Program.

10 (b) The division shall make awards to applicants attending an approved
11 school of nursing under this section if the recipient meets continuing
12 eligibility requirements in § 6-85-210.

13 (c) The division shall pay scholarship awards under this section only
14 from nonlottery state educational resources.
15

16 6-85-214. Accountability – Transparency – Legislative oversight.

17 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

18 (1) The continual evaluation of the Arkansas Academic Challenge
19 Scholarship Program and of all state-supported scholarship and grant programs
20 by the General Assembly is critical for maximizing the benefits to the state
21 and its citizens of state financial aid for higher education and meeting
22 state objectives for higher education; and

23 (2) Accountability and transparency in the implementation of
24 state-supported scholarship programs are fundamental to a proper evaluation
25 of the programs.

26 (b) The General Assembly finds that the collection of data and the
27 reports required under §§ 6-85-216 – 6-85-220 and § 6-60-901 et seq. are
28 necessary to ensure accountability and transparency.
29

30 6-85-215. [Repealed].
31

32 6-85-216. Institution report to ~~the division~~ Division of Higher
33 Education.

34 (a)(1) An approved institution of higher education that enrolls
35 students receiving scholarships under this subchapter annually shall provide
36 information and semiannually provide updated information to the Division of

1 Higher Education regarding all state-supported student financial assistance
2 whether or not the state-supported student financial assistance is awarded
3 under this subchapter.

4 (2) The information shall be provided in the form of individual
5 student records and shall include without limitation information regarding:

6 (A) State-supported student financial assistance;

7 (B) Demographic student data; and

8 (C) Disaggregated data on remedial courses.

9 (3)(A) An approved institution of higher education shall
10 undertake the procedures necessary to ensure the collection and reporting of
11 student information under this section.

12 (B) An approved institution of higher education may lose
13 its approved status for receiving scholarship funds on behalf of a recipient
14 under this subchapter if it fails to make a good-faith effort to comply with
15 this section.

16 (C) In addition to the provisions of subdivision (a)(3)(B)
17 of this section, an institution of higher education that does not comply with
18 this section shall not be eligible to accept state aid from the Higher
19 Education Grants Fund Account on behalf of a student.

20 (b) The division shall establish by rule the:

21 (1) Specific data required;

22 (2) Manner of reporting the information required; and

23 (3) Technology or software required for reporting.

24 (c) The division shall use the information provided under this section
25 to conduct the research and analysis needed to support the annual report of
26 the Director of the Division of Higher Education to the Legislative Council
27 under § 6-85-205.

28
29 6-85-217. Information provided to ~~the~~ Bureau of Legislative Research
30 by ~~the~~ Division of Higher Education.

31 The Division of Higher Education shall provide the following data to
32 the Bureau of Legislative Research through the Arkansas Higher Education
33 Information System under § 6-60-901 et seq., for the purpose of assisting the
34 General Assembly with evaluation and analysis under this subchapter:

35 (1) Existing individual student data;

36 (2) Institutional data;

- 1 (3) Financial data;
2 (4) Aggregate student scholarship and grant application and
3 award data;
4 (5) Remedial course data; and
5 (6) Other data needed to track scholarship and grant students
6 receiving state-supported student financial assistance from year to year.
7

8 6-85-218. [Repealed].
9

10 6-85-219. Reports to legislative committees.

11 (a)(1) Annually by November 1, the Division of Higher Education shall
12 report to the Legislative Council in the manner and format that the
13 Legislative Council requires on all state-supported student financial
14 assistance awarded by the division and awarded by approved institutions of
15 higher education.

16 (2) The information provided shall include without limitation:

17 (A) Current year expenditures for scholarships and grants
18 under the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program —~~Part 2~~;

19 (B) Projected obligations for succeeding years from each
20 scholarship or grant funding source;

21 (C) Fund balances for the:

22 (i) Higher Education Grants Fund Account; and

23 (ii) Trust accounts maintained by the Director of
24 the Division of Higher Education to hold the net proceeds from the state
25 lottery;

26 (D) An evaluation of whether the net proceeds from the
27 state lottery available for the program supplement and do not supplant
28 nonlottery state educational resources; and

29 (E) Other information that the Legislative Council or the
30 General Assembly requests.

31 (b) Annually by December 1, the division shall report to the
32 Legislative Council its recommendations for changes to the program, including
33 without limitation:

34 (1) Adjustments to the eligibility requirements of the program;
35 and

36 (2) Increases or decreases in the amounts awarded for a

1 scholarship under the program based on the amount of net proceeds from the
2 state lottery available.

3 (c) Annually by December 31, the division shall report to the
4 Legislative Council the following information on recipients of the ~~Arkansas~~
5 ~~Academic Challenge Scholarship Program — Part 2~~ program who applied as of
6 June 1:

- 7 (1) Race;
- 8 (2) Grade point average;
- 9 (3) Composite score on the ACT or the equivalent score on an ACT
10 equivalent; and
- 11 (4) Family or individual income as reported on the student's
12 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

13
14 6-85-220. Legislative Council — Annual report.

15 (a) The Legislative Council shall:

- 16 (1) Oversee the development and implementation of Arkansas Code
17 requirements with regard to the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship
18 Program;
- 19 (2) Review whether and how the use of net state lottery proceeds
20 helps to accomplish state objectives for higher education;
- 21 (3) Review the ongoing data collection, research, and evaluation
22 of the program;
- 23 (4) Review the annual report of the ~~Director of the~~ Division of
24 Higher Education under § 6-85-219;
- 25 (5) Review and recommend changes to the:
 - 26 (A) Number of awards for each scholarship and grant;
 - 27 (B) Award levels;
 - 28 (C) Eligibility requirements; and
 - 29 (D) Overall administration of the program; and
- 30 (6) Review and recommend policies for scholarships and grants
31 funded with nonlottery state educational resources, including without
32 limitation ways to ensure that net proceeds from the state lottery are used
33 to supplement and not supplant nonlottery state educational resources.
- 34 (b) Annually by December 15, the Legislative Council shall report its
35 findings and recommendations to the:
 - 36 (1) Office of the Arkansas Lottery, ~~the~~;

- 1 (2) President Pro Tempore of the Senate,~~the;~~
2 (3) Speaker of the House of Representatives,~~the;~~
3 (4) Governor,~~the;~~
4 (5) House Committee on Education,~~the;~~ and
5 (6) Senate Committee on Education.

6
7 6-85-221. Scholarship hold – Leave of absence.

8 (a) The Division of Higher Education may approve a scholarship hold or
9 a leave of absence for a traditional student for a period of twenty-four (24)
10 months or less.

11 (b) The reasons for a scholarship hold or a leave of absence may
12 include without limitation:

13 (1) A medical condition of the student or a member of the
14 student's immediate family that, on the basis of a physician's good-faith
15 judgment, necessitates the student or the student's immediate family member
16 to be hospitalized or receive outpatient or home-based medical care or to
17 recuperate until released by the attending physician;

18 (2) A personal or family emergency that requires the student to:
19 (A) Attend the funeral of an immediate family member; or
20 (B) Visit a relative of the student if the relative has a
21 medical condition in which death is possible or imminent;

22 (3) Military service under § 6-61-112; or

23 (4)(A) A commitment of twelve (12) to twenty-four (24) months
24 for service in a national or international humanitarian project sponsored by
25 a nonprofit corporation organized with a charitable or educational purpose.

26 (B) The student's commitment shall be expressed in a
27 written agreement with the nonprofit organization including the terms of
28 completion for the student's service on the related project.

29 (C) The division shall release a scholarship hold or a
30 leave of absence, whichever is applicable, if the division determines that
31 the student did not complete the commitment under the written agreement.

32
33 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-85-303(a), concerning the funding of the
34 Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program, is amended to read as
35 follows:

36 (a) For an academic year, the following shall be used to fund Arkansas

1 Workforce Challenge Scholarships under this subchapter:

2 (1) Excess funding returned to the Office of the Arkansas
3 Lottery under ~~§ 6-85-212(e)(2)(B)(i)~~ § 6-85-212(d)(2)(B)(i) from the previous
4 academic year; and

5 (2) Net proceeds remaining from the previous academic year after
6 the office:

7 (A) Transfers the funds requested by the Division of
8 Higher Education under § 23-115-801(c)(2); and

9 (B) Deposits the amount necessary to maintain the
10 Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust Account under § 23-115-802 in an amount
11 equal to twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000).
12

13 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 85 is amended to add an
14 additional subchapter to read as follows:

15 Subchapter 5 – Procedural Requirements for Creating or Amending Lottery-
16 Funded Scholarships
17

18 6-85-501. Introduction of bills.

19 (a) The following proposed legislation to be considered by the General
20 Assembly at a regular session shall be introduced in the General Assembly
21 during the first thirty-one (31) calendar days of a regular session:

22 (1) A bill that creates a new scholarship to be funded with net
23 proceeds from the state lottery or the Higher Education Grants Fund Account,
24 as applicable; and

25 (2) A bill that affects an existing scholarship that is funded
26 with net proceeds from the state lottery or the Higher Education Grants Fund
27 Account, as applicable.

28 (b)(1) A bill creating a new scholarship to be funded with net
29 proceeds from the state lottery or the Higher Education Grants Fund Account,
30 as applicable, or affecting an existing scholarship that is funded with net
31 proceeds from the state lottery or the Higher Education Grants Fund Account,
32 as applicable, shall not be introduced after the thirty-first day of a
33 regular session unless its introduction is first approved by a three-fourths
34 ($\frac{3}{4}$) vote of the full membership of each chamber of the General Assembly.

35 (2) If the General Assembly recesses for longer than three (3)
36 consecutive days during the first thirty-one (31) days of a regular session,

1 the deadline imposed under this section shall be extended for a time period
2 equal to the recess.

3 (c) A bill creating a new scholarship to be funded with net proceeds
4 from the state lottery or the Higher Education Grants Fund Account, as
5 applicable, or affecting an existing scholarship that is funded with net
6 proceeds from the state lottery or the Higher Education Grants Fund Account,
7 as applicable, shall not be introduced or considered at a special session or
8 fiscal session of the General Assembly unless the introduction or
9 consideration of the bill is first approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the
10 full membership of each chamber of the General Assembly.

11
12 6-85-502. Lottery fiscal impact statements – Required form.

13 (a) Any bill filed with the Senate or the House of Representatives
14 that creates a new scholarship to be funded with net proceeds from the state
15 lottery or the Higher Education Grants Fund Account, as applicable, or
16 affects an existing scholarship that is funded with net proceeds from the
17 state lottery or the Higher Education Grants Fund Account, as applicable,
18 shall:

19 (1)(A) Have a lottery fiscal impact statement attached to it.

20 (B) A bill that creates a new scholarship to be funded
21 with net proceeds from the state lottery or the Higher Education Grants Fund
22 Account, as applicable, or affects an existing scholarship that is funded
23 with net proceeds from the state lottery or the Higher Education Grants Fund
24 Account, as applicable, shall not be taken up by the House Committee on
25 Education and the Senate Committee on Education, meeting jointly, until a
26 lottery fiscal impact statement is attached; and

27 (2) Not take effect until at least one (1) year immediately
28 following the year in which the scholarship was enacted.

29 (b) The lottery fiscal impact of a bill that creates a new scholarship
30 to be funded with net proceeds from the state lottery or the Higher Education
31 Grants Fund Account, as applicable, or affects an existing scholarship that
32 is funded with net proceeds from the state lottery or the Higher Education
33 Grants Fund Account, as applicable, shall be determined as follows:

34 (1) The amount of net proceeds from the state lottery during
35 each of the last four (4) years immediately preceding the year in which the
36 proposed bill is being considered, listed separately;

1 (2) The total amount of additional revenue that is not net
2 proceeds from the state lottery that is available, if any, to use as
3 additional funding for scholarships;

4 (3) The amount of net proceeds necessary to fund scholarships
5 under the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-201 et
6 seq., during each of the last four (4) years immediately preceding the year
7 in which the proposed bill is being considered, listed separately;

8 (4) The amount of net proceeds necessary to fund scholarships
9 under the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-301 et
10 seq., during each of the last four (4) years immediately preceding the year
11 in which the proposed bill is being considered, listed separately;

12 (5) The amount of net proceeds that was necessary to fund
13 scholarships under the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program, §
14 6-85-401 et seq., during each of the last four (4) years immediately
15 preceding the year in which the proposed bill is being considered, listed
16 separately;

17 (6) The amount of net proceeds necessary to fund any other
18 scholarships funded with net proceeds from the state lottery, if any, during
19 each of the last four (4) years, or number of years available, immediately
20 preceding the year in which the proposed bill is being considered, listed
21 separately;

22 (7) The year with the lowest amount of net proceeds from the
23 state lottery, as determined under subdivision (b)(1) of this section, shall
24 be compared with each of the following, listed separately:

25 (A) The year with the highest amount of net proceeds
26 necessary to fund scholarships under the Arkansas Academic Challenge
27 Scholarship Program, § 6-85-201 et seq., as determined under subdivision
28 (b)(3) of this section;

29 (B) The year with the highest amount of net proceeds
30 necessary to fund scholarships under the Arkansas Workforce Challenge
31 Scholarship Program, § 6-85-301 et seq., as determined under subdivision
32 (b)(4) of this section;

33 (C) The year with the highest amount of net proceeds
34 necessary to fund scholarships under the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge
35 Scholarship Program, § 6-85-401 et seq., as determined under subdivision
36 (b)(5) of this section; and

1 (D) The year with the highest amount of net proceeds
2 necessary to fund any other scholarships funded with net proceeds from the
3 state lottery, if any, as determined under subdivision (b)(6) of this
4 section; and

5 (8) The highest estimated cost necessary to fund a new
6 scholarship to be funded with net proceeds from the state lottery or an
7 existing scholarship that is funded with net proceeds from the state lottery.

8 (c) In addition to the information required under subsection (b) of
9 this section, the final lottery fiscal impact of the new scholarship to be
10 funded with net proceeds from the state lottery or the Higher Education
11 Grants Fund Account, as applicable, or an existing scholarship that is funded
12 with net proceeds from the state lottery or the Higher Education Grants Fund
13 Account, as applicable, shall include and be calculated as follows:

14 (1) Add the amount of net proceeds from the year with the lowest
15 amount of net proceeds from the state lottery as determined under subdivision
16 (b)(1) of this section to the total amount of additional revenue available,
17 if any, under subdivision (b)(2) of this section;

18 (2) Add the amount determined under subdivision (b)(8) of this
19 section to each of the amounts determined under:

20 (A) Subdivision (b)(7)(A) of this section;

21 (B) Subdivision (b)(7)(B) of this section;

22 (C) Subdivision (b)(7)(C) of this section; and

23 (D) Subdivision (b)(7)(D) of this section, if any; and

24 (3) Subtract the total amount determined under subdivision
25 (c)(2) of this section from the total amount determined under subdivision
26 (c)(1) of this section.

27 (d)(1)(A) If the final lottery fiscal impact as determined under
28 subdivision (c)(3) of this section results in a positive number, the House
29 Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education, meeting jointly
30 during a regular session, special session, or fiscal session, as applicable,
31 may refer a bill creating a new scholarship to be funded with net proceeds
32 from the state lottery or the Higher Education Grants Fund Account, as
33 applicable, or amending an existing scholarship funded with net proceeds from
34 the state lottery or the Higher Education Grants Fund Account, as applicable,
35 to either chamber of the General Assembly for consideration.

36 (B) The referral of a bill under subdivision (d)(1)(A) of

this section shall require approval by a separate vote of House Committee on Education members and Senate Committee on Education members, meeting jointly during a regular session, special session, or fiscal session, as applicable.

(2) If the final lottery fiscal impact as determined under subdivision (c)(3) of this section results in a negative number, the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education, meeting jointly during a regular session, special session, or fiscal session, as applicable, shall not refer the bill to either chamber of the General Assembly for consideration unless:

(A) The bill is amended to ensure the final lottery fiscal impact results in a positive number; or

(B) Additional funding is provided through the General Revenue Fund Account.

(e) The lottery fiscal impact statement shall be substantially in the following form:

Lottery Fiscal Impact Statement

I. Net proceeds from the state lottery for the 4 immediately preceding years:

<u>Year:</u>	<u>Net Proceeds Amount:</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

II. Total amount of additional revenue available, if any:

<u>Source:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

III. Net proceeds used to fund the following during the 4 immediately preceding years:

ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP:

<u>Year:</u>	<u>Net Proceeds Used:</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

CONCURRENT CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP:

<u>Year:</u>	<u>Net Proceeds Used:</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

WORKFORCE CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP:OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS, IF ANY:Year: Net Proceeds Used:Year: Net Proceeds Used:AMOUNT USED TO FUND NURSING SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS*:Year: Net Proceeds Used:*Scholarship awards paid to recipientsattending approved schools of nursing arefunded only from nonlottery state educationalresources as set forth under § 6-85-213.IV. Comparison of information from Parts I and III:

Amount from year with the highest
amount of net proceeds used to fund
Academic Challenge Scholarships

Amount from year with the highest
amount of net proceeds used to fund
Workforce Challenge Scholarships

Amount from year with the lowest
amount of net proceeds as
determined under Section I

Amount from year with the highest
amount of net proceeds used to fund
Concurrent Challenge Scholarships

Amount from year with the highest
amount of net proceeds used to fund
other scholarships, if any, other than
nursing scholarships under § 6-85-213

V. Highest estimated cost necessary to fund a new or amended scholarship:

VI. Final lottery fiscal impact amount:

Step 1:

<u>Amount from year with the</u>	<u>Total amount of additional</u>	
<u>lowest amount of net proceeds</u>	<u>revenue available, if any,</u>	<u>=</u>
<u>determined under Section 1</u>	<u>determined under Section II</u>	

Step 2:

<u>Highest estimated cost</u>	<u>Total amount from years with</u>	
<u>necessary to fund the new or</u>	<u>the highest amount of net</u>	<u>=</u>
<u>amended scholarship as</u>	<u>proceeds used to fund Academic</u>	
<u>determined under Section V</u>	<u>Challenge, Workforce Challenge,</u>	
	<u>Concurrent Challenge, nursing school</u>	
	<u>scholarships, and other</u>	
	<u>scholarships, if any, as</u>	
	<u>determined under Section III</u>	

Step 3:

Amount determined under Step 1 - Amount determined under Step 2 =

Step 4:

(a) If the amount determined under Step 3 results in a positive number, the proposed new scholarship or amendment to an existing scholarship may be considered as set forth under § 6-85-502(d).

(b) If the amount determined under Step 3 results in a negative number, the proposed new scholarship or amendment to an existing scholarship should not be considered unless requirements are met as set forth under § 6-85-502(d)(2).

6-85-503. Consideration of bills.

(a) The House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on

1 Education shall meet jointly during a regular session, special session, or
2 fiscal session, as applicable, to consider any bill:

3 (1) Creating a new scholarship to be funded with net proceeds
4 from the state lottery or the Higher Education Grants Fund Account, as
5 applicable; or

6 (2) Affecting an existing scholarship that is funded with net
7 proceeds from the state lottery or the Higher Education Grants Fund Account,
8 as applicable.

9 (b) A bill creating a new scholarship to be funded with net proceeds
10 from the state lottery or the Higher Education Grants Fund Account, as
11 applicable, or affecting an existing scholarship that is funded with net
12 proceeds from the state lottery or the Higher Education Grants Fund Account,
13 as applicable, shall not be recommended to either chamber of the General
14 Assembly except upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the
15 following, meeting jointly during a regular session, special session, or
16 fiscal session, as applicable:

17 (1) House Committee on Education; and

18 (2) Senate Committee on Education.

19 (c) A lottery fiscal impact statement prepared for a bill as required
20 under § 6-85-502 shall be amended each time the House Committee on Education
21 and the Senate Committee on Education recommends to either chamber of the
22 General Assembly a bill creating a new scholarship to be funded with net
23 proceeds from the state lottery or the Higher Education Grants Fund Account,
24 as applicable, or affecting an existing scholarship that is funded with net
25 proceeds from the state lottery or the Higher Education Grants Fund Account,
26 as applicable, in order to account for the updated lottery fiscal impact, if
27 any, the bill that proposes a new scholarship or amends an existing
28 scholarship will have.

29
30 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 23-115-103, concerning definitions used in
31 the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery Act, is amended to add an additional
32 subsection to read as follows:

33 (33)(A) "Lottery Scholarship Trust Account" means the account at
34 one (1) or more financial institutions into which the office deposits net
35 proceeds from the state lottery.

36 (B) The office shall promulgate rules to determine the

1 manner in which the net proceeds are deposited and disbursed based on what is
2 most financially prudent.

3
4 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 23-115-104 is repealed.

5 ~~23-115-104. Fiscal impact statement.~~

6 ~~(a) The author of a bill filed in the House of Representatives or the~~
7 ~~Senate shall have a fiscal impact statement prepared if the bill:~~

8 ~~(1) Amends this chapter; or~~

9 ~~(2) Will impose a new or increased cost to:~~

10 ~~(A) The Office of the Arkansas Lottery; or~~

11 ~~(B) A lottery.~~

12 ~~(b) The author of the bill shall file the fiscal impact statement with~~
13 ~~the chair of the committee to which the bill is referred;~~

14 ~~(1) At least three (3) days before the bill may be called up for~~
15 ~~final action in the committee during a regular session of the General~~
16 ~~Assembly;~~

17 ~~(2) At least three (3) days before the bill may be called up for~~
18 ~~final action in the committee during a fiscal session of the General~~
19 ~~Assembly; and~~

20 ~~(3) At least one (1) day before the bill may be called up for~~
21 ~~final action in the committee during an extraordinary session of the General~~
22 ~~Assembly.~~

23 ~~(c)(1) A fiscal impact statement under this section shall be developed~~
24 ~~by the Bureau of Legislative Research within the guidelines adopted by the~~
25 ~~Legislative Council.~~

26 ~~(2) The Division of Higher Education or the office, as~~
27 ~~applicable, shall assist in the preparation of the fiscal impact statement.~~

28 ~~(d)(1)(A) If a bill requiring a fiscal impact statement under this~~
29 ~~section is called up for final passage in the House of Representatives or the~~
30 ~~Senate and a fiscal impact statement has not been provided by the author of~~
31 ~~the bill or by the committee to which the bill was referred, any member of~~
32 ~~the House of Representatives or the Senate may object to the bill's being~~
33 ~~called up for final passage until a fiscal impact statement is prepared and~~
34 ~~made available on the desk of each member of the House of Representatives or~~
35 ~~the Senate at least one (1) day before the bill's being called up for final~~
36 ~~passage.~~

1 ~~(B) An affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of a quorum~~
2 ~~present and voting shall override the objection.~~

3 ~~(2) If an objection is made without override, the presiding~~
4 ~~officer of the House of Representatives or the Senate shall cause the bill to~~
5 ~~be referred to the bureau for the preparation of a fiscal impact statement~~
6 ~~that shall be filed with the presiding officer of the House of~~
7 ~~Representatives or the Senate not later than five (5) days from the date of~~
8 ~~the request.~~

9
10 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code §§ 23-115-801(b) and (c), concerning the
11 transfer of net proceeds from the lottery to fund scholarships, are amended
12 to read as follows:

13 (b)(1)(A) On or before the fifteenth day of each month, the office
14 shall deposit the net proceeds from the lottery into one (1) ~~or more trust~~
15 ~~accounts~~ Lottery Scholarship Trust Account at one (1) or more financial
16 institutions.

17 (B)(i) The office shall establish ~~trust accounts for both~~
18 the Lottery Scholarship Trust Account as required under subdivision (b)(1)(A)
19 of this section to fund the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program,
20 § 6-85-201 et seq., the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program, §
21 6-85-301 et seq., and the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program,
22 § 6-85-401 et seq., and any other scholarship funded with net proceeds from
23 the state lottery in a financial institution into which the office shall
24 transfer:

25 (a) Excess funding returned to the office
26 under ~~§ 6-85-212(e)(2)(B)(i)~~ § 6-85-212(d)(2)(B)(i) from the previous
27 academic year; and

28 (b) Net proceeds remaining in the Lottery
29 Scholarship Trust Account from the previous academic year after the office:

30 (1) Transfers under subdivision (c)(2)
31 of this section the funds requested by the Division of Higher Education; and

32 (2) Deposits the amount necessary into
33 the Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust Account under § 23-115-802 to
34 maintain an amount equal to twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000).

35 (ii) The funds transferred by the office into the
36 ~~trust accounts~~ Lottery Scholarship Trust Account for the Arkansas Academic

1 Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-201 et seq., the Arkansas Workforce
2 Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-301 et seq., and the Arkansas
3 Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-401 et seq., and any other
4 scholarship funded with net proceeds from the state lottery as established
5 under subdivision (b)(1)(B)(i) of this section shall be used for:

6 (a) Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarships;
7 (b) Any management fees charged by the
8 financial institution to manage the trust ~~accounts~~ account for scholarship
9 award supplements; and

10 (c) Arkansas Concurrent Challenge
11 Scholarships;

12 (d) Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarships;
13 and

14 (e) Any other scholarship funded with net
15 proceeds from the state lottery.

16 (iii) Annually, the office shall transfer to the
17 ~~Division of Higher Education~~ division the funds from the previous academic
18 year, if any, that were transferred by the office into the ~~trust accounts~~ for
19 ~~the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-301 et seq., and~~
20 ~~the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-401 et seq.,~~
21 Lottery Scholarship Trust Account established under subdivision (b)(1)(B)(i)
22 of this section for distribution of Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarships,
23 Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarships and, Arkansas Concurrent Challenge
24 Scholarships, and any other scholarship funded with net proceeds from the
25 state lottery.

26 (2) The office shall follow the investment policy guidelines of
27 the State Board of Finance in selecting a financial institution and managing
28 the net proceeds from the lottery deposited into the ~~trust accounts~~ Lottery
29 Scholarship Trust Account.

30 (c)(1) The Director of the Division of Higher Education shall certify
31 to the office the amount of net proceeds from the state lottery needed to
32 fund the scholarships awarded to recipients under ~~§ 6-85-201 et seq., the~~
33 following scholarship programs for each semester of an academic year based on
34 the contents of the Lottery Scholarship Trust Account at the end of the
35 immediately preceding fiscal year:

36 (A) The Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, §

1 6-85-201 et seq.;

2 (B) The Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program,
3 § 6-85-301 et seq.;

4 (C) The Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program,
5 § 6-85-401 et seq.; and

6 (D) Any other scholarship funded with net proceeds from
7 the state lottery.

8 (2)(A) The office shall transfer the funds requested by the
9 director under subdivision (c)(1) of this section into one (1) or more trust
10 accounts at one (1) or more financial institutions meeting the requirements
11 of subdivision (b)(2) of this section maintained by the ~~Division of Higher~~
12 Education division.

13 (B) The director shall disburse trust account funds only
14 in the name of the recipient:

15 (i) To an approved institution of higher education;
16 or

17 (ii) If a recipient transfers to another approved
18 institution of higher education, to the approved institution of higher
19 education where the recipient transferred.

20 (C) The following shall be based on the available funds
21 from the previous fiscal year:

22 (i) The amount transferred by the office for
23 existing scholarships under subdivision (c)(2)(A) of this section; and

24 (ii) Any new scholarship that is funded with net
25 proceeds from the state lottery or the Higher Education Grants Fund Account,
26 as applicable.

27 (D)(i)(a) However, if available funds are insufficient to
28 meet the amount requested under subdivision (c)(1) of this section to fund
29 all scholarships funded with net proceeds from the state lottery or the
30 Higher Education Grants Fund Account, as applicable, the first priority for
31 the award of scholarships funded with available funds is the award of
32 scholarships under the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-
33 85-201 et seq.

34 (b) If available funds are insufficient to
35 meet the amount requested under subdivision (c)(1) of this section to fund
36 all scholarships under the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, §

1 6-85-201 et seq., then the available funds shall be distributed to recipients
2 of scholarships under the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, §
3 6-85-201 et seq., on a pro rata basis as determined by the division and
4 reviewed by the Legislative Council or, if the General Assembly is in
5 session, the Joint Budget Committee.

6 (c) The director shall immediately notify the
7 Legislative Council or, if the General Assembly is in session, the Joint
8 Budget Committee, upon becoming aware that available funds are insufficient
9 to meet the amount requested under subdivision (c)(1) of this section.

10 (ii)(a) If available funds remain after the award of
11 all scholarships under the Arkansas Academic Challenge Program, § 6-85-201 et
12 seq., then the available funds shall be distributed to recipients of
13 scholarships under the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-
14 85-301 et seq., and the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program, §
15 6-85-401 et seq., on a pro rata basis as determined by the division.

16 (b) Distribution of scholarships with
17 remaining available funds on a pro rata basis under subdivision
18 (c)(2)(D)(ii)(a) of this section shall ensure the equal distribution of
19 scholarships to student scholarship recipients enrolled in two-year
20 institutions of higher education and four-year institutions of higher
21 education.

22 (3) By August 1 of each year, the director shall provide to the
23 Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration and to the
24 Legislative Council for the academic year just ended an accounting of all
25 trust accounts maintained by the division, including without limitation:

- 26 (A) Total deposits to all trust accounts;
27 (B) Total disbursements from the trust accounts; and
28 (C) The balance remaining in the trust accounts.
29

30 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code §§ 23-115-802(b) and (c), concerning the
31 amount deposited into the Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust Account and
32 loans made to the Division of Higher Education for the Arkansas Academic
33 Challenge Scholarship Program – Part 2, are amended to read as follows:

34 (b)(1) An amount equal to four percent (4%) of the total amount of net
35 proceeds disbursed during the preceding fiscal year in the form of
36 scholarships and grants for higher education shall be deposited from lottery

1 proceeds each year until the amount in the account equals twenty million
2 dollars (\$20,000,000).

3 (2)(A) Thereafter, only the amount necessary to maintain the
4 account in an amount equal to twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) shall be
5 deposited into the account ~~after the repayment of any loan made from the~~
6 ~~Executive Discretionary Division Section 3(d) of the General Improvement~~
7 ~~Distribution Act of 2015, identical Acts 2015, Nos. 1146 and 1147, before~~
8 ~~June 30, 2016, to the Division of Higher Education for the Arkansas Academic~~
9 ~~Challenge Scholarship Program — Part 2 has been satisfied.~~

10 (B) ~~A loan made from the Executive Discretionary Division~~
11 ~~Section 3(d) of the General Improvement Distribution Act of 2015, identical~~
12 ~~Acts 2015, Nos. 1146 and 1147, to the division for the Arkansas Academic~~
13 ~~Challenge Scholarship Program — Part 2 shall not exceed one million five~~
14 ~~hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000).~~

15 (3) Any amount in the account exceeding twenty million dollars
16 (\$20,000,000) shall be considered net proceeds and shall be deposited
17 annually into one (1) or more trust accounts at one (1) or more financial
18 institutions by July 1 of each year.

19 (c)(1)(A) Except as provided in subdivision (c)(2) of this section, if
20 net proceeds in any year are not sufficient to meet the amount allocated for
21 higher education scholarships under the Arkansas Academic Challenge
22 Scholarship Program, § 6-85-201 et seq., the account may be drawn upon to
23 meet the deficiency according to the procedural requirements established
24 under subdivision (c)(3)(B) of this section.

25 (B) In the event that the funding available in the account
26 is not sufficient to meet the remaining amount allocated for scholarships
27 funded with net proceeds from the state lottery, up to the first twenty
28 million dollars (\$20,000,000) of funds allocated in the Higher Education
29 Grants Fund Account may be drawn upon to meet the deficiency.

30 (2) The Except as provided in subdivision (c)(3)(B) of this
31 section, the account shall not be drawn upon to fund Arkansas Workforce
32 Challenge Scholarships under the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship
33 Program, § 6-85-301 et seq., or Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarships
34 under the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-401 et
35 seq, or any other scholarship funded with net proceeds from the state
36 lottery.

1 (3)(A) Determining the maximum amount of loans from the account
2 to the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-201 et seq.,
3 the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-301 et seq., or
4 the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-401 et seq., is
5 the prerogative of the General Assembly. This is usually accomplished by the
6 General Assembly's delineating such funding allocations for the various
7 scholarship programs, with the approval of the Administrative Rules
8 Subcommittee of the Legislative Council and through oversight as required by
9 law by the Lottery Oversight Subcommittee of the Legislative Council.
10 Further, the General Assembly determines that the division may operate more
11 efficiently with some flexibility, therefore it is both necessary and
12 appropriate that the General Assembly maintain oversight by requiring prior
13 approval of the Legislative Council or the Joint Budget Committee as provided
14 by this section.

15 (B) If the division determines it is necessary to borrow
16 from the account to fund scholarships under the Arkansas Academic Challenge
17 Scholarship Program, § 6-85-201 et seq., the Arkansas Workforce Challenge
18 Scholarship Program, § 6-85-301 et seq., or the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge
19 Scholarship Program, § 6-85-401 et seq., the division shall first obtain
20 review and approval from the Legislative Council or, if the General Assembly
21 is in session, the Joint Budget Committee.

22
23 SECTION 8. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY.

24 (a) The contents of the Lottery Scholarship Trust Account as
25 established under § 23-115-801 at the end of the 2021 fiscal year shall be
26 used to fund scholarships awarded to recipients of only the following
27 scholarships for the 2021-2022 academic year:

28 (1) Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-201
29 et seq.;

30 (2) Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-301
31 et seq; and

32 (3) Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-
33 401 et seq.

34 (b)(1) Thereafter, funds that accrue in the Lottery Scholarship Trust
35 Account as established under § 23-115-801 shall be used to fund recipients of
36 the following scholarships:

1 (A) Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-
2 85-201 et seq.;

3 (B) Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-
4 85-301 et seq.;

5 (C) Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program, §
6 6-85-401 et seq.; and

7 (D) Any other scholarship funded with net proceeds from
8 the state lottery.

9 (2) Scholarships funded with net proceeds from the state lottery
10 deposited into the Lottery Scholarship Trust Account established under § 23-
11 115-801 shall be funded based on the total amount of net proceeds from the
12 state lottery in the Lottery Scholarship Trust Account at the end of the
13 immediately preceding fiscal year.

14
15 SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE. Section 6 of this act is effective on and
16 after July 1, 2021.

17
18 SECTION 10. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY.

19 The requirement under § 6-85-501 of this act that the following bills
20 be introduced in the General Assembly during the first thirty-one (31)
21 calendar days of a regular session shall take effect on and after July 1,
22 2021:

23 (1) A bill that creates a new scholarship to be funded with net
24 proceeds from the state lottery or the Higher Education Grants Fund Account,
25 as applicable; and

26 (2) A bill that affects an existing scholarship that is funded
27 with net proceeds from the state lottery or the Higher Education Grants Fund
28 Account, as applicable.

29
30 SECTION 11. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
31 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that it is imperative to ensure
32 existing scholarships can be funded with current available funds; that it is
33 necessary to determine whether enacting a new scholarship is fiscally
34 prudent; and that this act is immediately necessary in order to review each
35 bill that creates or amends a lottery-funded scholarship in light of existing
36 scholarships and available funds to ensure financial solvency of the lottery.

1 Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately
2 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall
3 become effective on:

4 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

5 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
6 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
7 bill; or

8 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
9 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

10
11 */s/Hickey*
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14 **APPROVED: 4/12/21**
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