

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1989

A Bill

HOUSE BILL

1691

By: Representatives J. Miller, Arnold, Hatfield, Porter, Willems,
Capps, Hinshaw, Matthews, Todd, Collier, Baker, Mitchum, Dietz,
Pollan, Landers and Turner

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO CREATE THE 'ARKANSAS STUDENT ACCESS GRANT PROGRAM';
TO REQUIRE THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO ISSUE
A TUITION VOUCHER FROM THE GRANT PROGRAM FUND TO COLLEGE OR
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WHO MEET CERTAIN CRITERIA; TO PROVIDE
FOR THE ADOPTION OF RULES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. (a) There is created the "Arkansas Student Access Grant Program" to be administered by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. The department shall adopt rules for the administration of the "Grant Program Fund."

(b) The department shall issue from the fund a tuition voucher of up to one thousand (\$1,000) per academic year to any full-time undergraduate student registered at a not-for-profit college or university which is chartered in the state, which is accredited or a candidate for accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, which grants baccalaureate degrees, and which is not a state college or university.

SECTION 2. A person is eligible to receive such tuition voucher if:

(a) He or she is registered as a freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior after July 31, 1989.

(b) He or she is enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student at an eligible college or university, he or she has resided continuously in the state for the two (2) years immediately preceding the award of the tuition voucher and is not a resident of another state, and is making satisfactory academic progress as defined by the college or university in which he or she

is enrolled.

SECTION 3. The maximum amount of the tuition voucher issued to a full-time student shall be one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per academic year. The tuition voucher shall be paid on a prorated basis at the beginning of each quarter, semester, or term. The department shall make such payments to the college or university in which the student is enrolled for credit to the student's account for payment of tuition and fees.

SECTION 4. If the combined amount of the tuition voucher issued pursuant to this act and all other scholarships and grants for tuition or fees exceeds the amount charged to the student for tuition and fees, the college or university will refund the amount of the grant not used.

SECTION 5. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that there is a significant need to provide grants to assist residents of this state to attend a college or university; that this act establishes a program to provide tuition vouchers; and that this act shall become effective on July 1, 1989 to provide for appropriate administration of the act. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect on after July 1, 1989.