

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 85th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2005

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1525

4
5 By: Representative Elliott
6 By: Senator Wilkins

For An Act To Be Entitled

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10 ACCESS TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 2005;
11 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

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14 ACCESS TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF
15 2005.

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18 WHEREAS, there are children of undocumented immigrants who have lived
19 in Arkansas most of their lives; and

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21 WHEREAS, most of these children have spent their formative years in
22 Arkansas elementary and secondary schools; and

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24 WHEREAS, many of these children have proven their academic ability by
25 graduating from an Arkansas high school; and

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27 WHEREAS, many of these children are precluded from accessing an
28 affordable college education because they do not qualify for in-state tuition
29 rates or state-supported scholarships; and

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31 WHEREAS, educational opportunities should be offered to all children so
32 they may contribute to the future economic viability of Arkansas,

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34 NOW THEREFORE,

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

36 SECTION 1. (a) This act shall be known as the "Access to



1 Postsecondary Education Act of 2005”.

2 (b) A student without documented immigration status shall be exempt
3 from paying the nonresident portion of total tuition for attendance at a
4 state-supported institution of higher education, if the student:

5 (1) Attended high school in Arkansas for no fewer than three (3)
6 school years;

7 (2) Graduated from a high school in Arkansas or received a
8 General Education Development diploma in the state; and

9 (3) Is or has been admitted at an institution of higher
10 education.

11 (c) A student meeting the requirements of subsection (b) of this
12 section who graduated from high school after December 1, 2004, shall be
13 eligible for state-supported scholarships if the student meets all other
14 eligibility requirements of the scholarship program that are not related to
15 residency or immigration status.

16 (d) In addition to the requirements under subdivision (b) of this
17 section, a student without documented status shall file an affidavit with the
18 state-supported institution of higher education stating that the student has
19 an intent to legalize his or her immigration status.

20 (e) The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall promulgate
21 the rules necessary for implementation of this act.

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