

## CHAPTER 131

## (HB 376)

AN ACT relating to library science scholarships.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

Section 1. KRS 171.303 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) There is hereby established a Library Science Scholarship Fund.
- (2) The state librarian may grant scholarships for study in library science at an institution within the Commonwealth which is accredited by the American Library Association, *the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education or the appropriate regional postsecondary education accrediting organization*~~[or the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools]~~. *Scholarships may also be granted for study in an accredited library education program offered via distant learning technologies. Students applying for library education programs at institutions outside the Commonwealth that are likewise accredited may apply for assistance under this program if they agree to work in a library or archival services program within the Commonwealth upon their graduation in accordance with Section 2 of this Act.*
- (3) The state librarian shall *establish a Library Science Scholarship Fund Advisory Committee that will* receive and consider all applications for scholarships for study in library science *and shall advise the state librarian on the awarding of scholarships according to criteria they establish for this purpose*~~[and may grant a scholarship to applicants who are residents of this Commonwealth and who are deemed by the state librarian to be qualified. The state librarian shall make a careful and full investigation of the ability, character and qualifications of each applicant and may personally examine each applicant. The state librarian shall, whenever possible, grant financial assistance to the applicants with the greatest financial need, provided such persons are found to possess such qualities as give reasonable assurance of their successfully completing the course of study made possible by the scholarship]~~.
- (4) *The department is authorized to receive money from any state, federal, private or other legal funding source approved by the appropriate state agency for scholarship purposes, and the amounts of individual scholarships shall be determined by the state librarian on the advice of the Library Science Scholarship Fund Advisory Committee, which shall set criteria for the assistance. Money designated for this fund shall be held in a restricted account and shall not lapse to the general fund.*

Section 2. KRS 171.306 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) To be eligible for a scholarship, an applicant shall contract in writing with the state librarian that he *or she* will *graduate in an agreed to period of time and*~~[,]~~ within six (6) months from the date *of completing the program*~~[he completes his term]~~ of study, accept employment with a library *or archival services* program approved by the state librarian for a period *of at least two (2) years*~~[to be computed at the rate of one (1) year for each \$1,000 received, or proportional time for less amounts]~~. *The recipient shall agree to the terms of employment established by the employing library or archival services program.*
- (2) If the recipient of a scholarship fails to fulfill *the*~~[his]~~ obligations *agreed to* under the contract for a scholarship the entire amount of scholarship benefits received~~[less credit for~~

time actually employed in an approved program plus six percent (6%) interest thereon] shall become *immediately* due and payable *to the Library Science Scholarship Fund. Repayment of benefits received under this program shall be due in a lump sum or through a payment schedule determined by the state librarian on the advice of the Library Science Scholarship Fund Advisory Committee, and in accordance with current interest rates applicable to similar debts collected by other financial assistance entities.*

- (3) Upon recommendation of the state librarian, the Attorney General shall institute proceedings for the purpose of recovering any amount due the Commonwealth under the provisions of this section.

~~[(4) The state librarian may terminate employment of a scholarship recipient if the performance of the recipient is found to be unsatisfactory. In such a case, if the obligations of the recipient are not completely fulfilled they are canceled.]~~

**Approved March 18, 2003**