

A state House committee has passed legislation allowing students who meet the requirements for state residency or have lived in Arkansas for a certain period of time to qualify for in-state tuition at a state-supported university. KUAR's Sarah Kellogg has more.

Tuition Bill Wrap**1:08****SOC**

In order to qualify, the person must be an Arkansas resident under current code or have lived in the state for three years at the time of applying for the college, and either graduated from a public or private high school in Arkansas or received the equivalent of a high school diploma in the state.

Rep. Dan Douglas, R-Bentonville, introduced the bill to the House Education Committee on Tuesday. He says this bill would help Arkansas students who are undocumented or not fully citizens attend Arkansas colleges without paying international tuition rates, which can be three times what in-state tuition costs. Douglas says that is harming these prospective students and the state.

Tuition Wrap Cut**:24****“...a disservice”**

“I met a group of these kids and I cried when I heard their stories of hopelessness because they can't afford \$9,000 a semester,” Douglas sais. “They want to live here and raise their families here and make a difference. [They want to] be doctors and engineers...productive citizens, and we're doing them a disservice.”

The legislation now heads to the full House for a vote, though Douglas does have to make a technical change to the bill. Sarah Kellogg, KUAR news.