

House Bill 249 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Martin of the 49th, Hilton of the 48th, Jones of the 47th, McDonald of the 26th, and Gaines of the 120th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Subpart 2A of Part 3 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of
2 Georgia Annotated, relating to the needs based financial aid program, so as to provide for a
3 definition; to provide for a maximum award amount; to provide for a maximum single
4 payment amount; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal
5 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Subpart 2A of Part 3 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
9 Annotated, relating to the needs based financial aid program, is amended by revising
10 paragraph (1) of Code Section 20-3-360, relating to definitions, as follows:

11 "(1) 'Eligible student' means a person:

- 12 (A) Whose family income is considered economically disadvantaged, based on criteria
13 established by the commission, or who has a financial aid gap;
14 (B) Who meets any academic or other standards established by the commission;
15 (C) Who is eligible for a scholarship or grant pursuant to Code Section 20-3-519.1;
16 (D) Who has completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); and

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- 17 (E) Who has completed:
- 18 (i) Seventy ~~80~~ percent of the credit requirements toward the credential of his or her
- 19 program of study, if such program is a four-year program; or
- 20 (ii) Forty-five percent of the credit requirements toward the credential of his or her
- 21 program of study, if such program is a two-year program."

22 **SECTION 2.**

23 Said subpart is further amended by revising Code Section 20-3-361, relating to grants,
24 individualized eligibility criteria, and criteria for retention, as follows:

25 "20-3-361.

26 Subject to appropriations, the commission shall establish a needs based financial aid
27 program to provide grants to eligible students for undergraduate level postsecondary
28 education at qualified institutions. The maximum award amount per eligible student shall
29 be ~~\$2,500~~ \$3,500.00 in total, provided that no single payment for an eligible student shall
30 exceed \$2,500.00. The commission may provide for individualized eligibility criteria and
31 grant amounts as determined to be the most appropriate for the particular qualified
32 institution and its student population in accordance with this subpart and the rules and
33 regulations of the commission. The commission shall also establish criteria necessary for
34 eligible students to retain and continue to receive such grants in accordance with this
35 subpart."

36 **SECTION 3.**

37 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
38 without such approval.

39 **SECTION 4.**

40 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.