

Senate Bill 262

By: Senators Jones of the 25th, Mullis of the 53rd, Jeffares of the 17th, Golden of the 8th,  
Dugan of the 30th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 3 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to the Georgia Student Finance Authority, so as to provide for legislative  
3 findings; to provide for definitions; to provide for tuition grant assistance for certain students  
4 attending the Military Junior College of Georgia; to provide for the manner of applying for  
5 such grants; to provide for reductions of grant amounts under certain circumstances; to  
6 provide for audits; to provide for refunds under certain circumstances; to provide for  
7 penalties for false statements; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and  
8 for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

11 Part 3 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
12 relating to the Georgia Student Finance Authority, is amended by adding a new subpart to  
13 read as follows:

14 style="text-align:center">"Subpart 6B

15 20-3-448.

16 The General Assembly finds that it is essential for the national defense that persons be  
17 encouraged to consider military leadership positions as an honorable and rewarding  
18 profession and that the Military Junior College of Georgia plays a significant role in  
19 preparing and training students for life in the military as a profession. It is the purpose of  
20 the General Assembly, as provided for in this subpart, to encourage students to enroll in  
21 the Military Junior College of Georgia and its military training program and to encourage  
22 such students to accept military commissions by providing for tuition grant assistance to  
23 such students.

24 20-3-448.1.

25 For purposes of this subpart, the term 'eligible student' shall mean a person who:

26 (1) Is enrolled in or accepted for enrollment in the Military Junior College of Georgia for  
27 a minimum of 12 academic hours;

28 (2) Is or will be a citizen of this state for a period of at least 12 months immediately prior  
29 to the date of registration therein;

30 (3) Is enrolled in or plans to enroll in the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps  
31 program at the Military Junior College of Georgia; and

32 (4) Has signed a contract to accept a commission, to be effective upon graduation, as an  
33 officer in any branch of the armed services of the United States or the Army National  
34 Guard.

35 20-3-448.2.

36 Subject to funds being appropriated by the General Assembly for such purposes, there is  
37 granted to each eligible student attending the Military Junior College of Georgia the sum  
38 of \$1,000.00 per academic quarter.

39 20-3-448.3.

40 Each eligible student wishing to receive the grant provided for in this subpart shall submit  
41 to the Military Junior College of Georgia an application for the grant payment at the time  
42 and in accordance with procedures prescribed by the authority. The authority is authorized  
43 to define such terms and prescribe such rules, regulations, and procedures as may be  
44 reasonable and necessary to carry out the purposes of this subpart. The authority shall not  
45 approve payment of any grant until it has received from an appropriate officer of the  
46 Military Junior College of Georgia a certification that the student applying for the grant is  
47 an eligible student. Upon timely receipt of such certification, in proper form, the authority  
48 is authorized to pay the grant to the Military Junior College of Georgia on behalf of and to  
49 the credit of the student. In the event a student on whose behalf a grant is paid shall not  
50 enroll as a full-time student for the school term for which the grant is paid, the Military  
51 Junior College of Georgia shall make a refund to the authority in accordance with  
52 regulations of the authority.

53 20-3-448.4.

54 In the event funds appropriated to the authority by the General Assembly for the grants  
55 provided for in this subpart are not sufficient to enable the authority to pay on behalf of  
56 eligible students the full grant prescribed by the General Assembly, grants payable for the  
57 remaining school terms shall be reduced by the authority on a pro rata basis.

58 20-3-448.5.

59 The Military Junior College of Georgia shall be subject to examination by the state auditor  
60 for the sole purpose of determining whether the school has properly certified eligibility and  
61 enrollment of students and credited grants paid on behalf of such students. However,  
62 nothing in this subpart shall be construed to interfere with the authority of the school to  
63 determine admissibility of students or to control its own curriculum, philosophy, purpose,  
64 or administration. In the event it is determined that the school knowingly or through error  
65 certified an ineligible student to be eligible for a grant under this subpart, the amount of the  
66 grant paid to the school pursuant to such certification shall be refunded by the school to the  
67 authority.

68

69 20-3-448.6.

70 Any person who knowingly makes or furnishes any false statement or misrepresentation  
71 or who accepts such statement or misrepresentation knowing it to be false for the purpose  
72 of enabling an ineligible student to obtain wrongfully a grant under this subpart shall be  
73 guilty of a misdemeanor."

74

## **SECTION 2.**

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