

Senate Bill 275

By: Senators Harbin of the 16th, Williams of the 25th, Strickland of the 17th and Jackson of the 41st

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 student
3 loan repayment for General Assembly staff members; to provide for definitions; to provide
4 for eligibility requirements; to provide for continued eligibility requirements; to provide for
5 student loan repayment agreements and conditions; to provide for maximum student loan
6 repayment amounts; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for appropriations
7 contingency; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

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

S. B. 275

13 "Subpart 7A

14 20-3-460.

15 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

16 (1) 'Course of study' means an undergraduate or graduate degree program at an
17 institution of the University System of Georgia.

18 (2) 'Eligible applicant' means a person who:

19 (A) Is a legal resident of this state as established by rules and regulations of the
20 authority;

21 (B) Is employed as a General Assembly staff member; and

22 (C) Is enrolled in a course of study.

23 (3) 'General Assembly staff member' means a full-time employee of the General
24 Assembly.

25 (4) 'Recipient' means an eligible applicant who applied for and was approved by the
26 authority for student loan repayment under this Code section.

27 (5) 'Student loan' means debt incurred by a recipient that is:

28 (A) Evidenced by a promissory note which required the funds received to be used to
29 pay for the cost of attendance for a course of study of the recipient;

30 (B) Not in default at the time of application for repayment under this Code section; and

31 (C) Not subject to an existing service obligation or to repayment through another
32 student loan repayment or loan forgiveness program or to repayment as a condition of
33 employment.

34 (b) The authority is authorized to approve the applications of eligible applicants submitted
35 in accordance with rules and regulations established by the authority governing the student
36 loan repayment application process.

37 (c) The authority is authorized to provide for the repayment of student loans held by a
38 recipient in consideration of the recipient performing services as a General Assembly staff

39 member. A student loan repayment made pursuant to this Code section shall be paid in
40 such manner as the authority shall establish by rules and regulations.

41 (d)(1) Each recipient, before being granted any student loan repayment, shall enter into
42 a student loan repayment agreement with the authority agreeing to the terms and
43 conditions upon which the student loan repayment is granted, including such terms and
44 conditions set forth in this Code section.

45 (2) The authority shall have the power to terminate a student loan repayment agreement
46 at any time for any cause deemed sufficient by the authority, provided that such power
47 shall not be arbitrarily or unreasonably exercised.

48 (e) Each student loan repayment agreement entered into with the authority pursuant to this
49 Code section shall be signed by the director of the authority and by the recipient and shall:

50 (1) Provide for repayment of the recipient's student loans in an amount to be determined
51 by the authority, but not exceeding a maximum of \$40,000.00 per year or the total student
52 loan of the recipient incurred during such year, whichever is less, to be paid out in
53 installments made each 12 months over a term of not more than five years;

54 (2) Provide that any payment made by the authority under a student loan repayment
55 agreement shall be made in consideration of services rendered by the recipient as a
56 General Assembly staff member; and

57 (3) Require that the recipient remain a legal resident of this state as established by rules
58 and regulations of the authority and be employed as a General Assembly staff member
59 at all times during the term of the agreement.

60 (f) The authority shall adopt such rules and regulations as are reasonable and necessary to
61 implement the provisions of this Code section.

62 (g) Student loan repayment for recipients having entered into a student loan repayment
63 agreement with the authority pursuant to this Code section shall be contingent upon the
64 appropriation of funds by the General Assembly for the purposes of this Code section in
65 annual appropriations Acts of the General Assembly."

66

SECTION 2.

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