

House Bill 700 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Belton of the 112th, Hitchens of the 161st, Bonner of the 72nd, Glanton of the 75th, Prince of the 127th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-3-374 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 service cancelable loan fund and authorized types of service cancelable educational loans
3 financed by state funds and issued by the Georgia Student Finance Authority, so as to include
4 graduate degree programs; to require application for additional educational assistance
5 programs; to implement a two-year service requirement; to correct references; to provide for
6 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Code Section 20-3-374 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to service
10 cancelable loan fund and authorized types of service cancelable educational loans financed
11 by state funds and issued by the Georgia Student Finance Authority, is amended by revising
12 paragraph (2) of subsection (b) as follows:

13 **"(2) Georgia National Guard members.**

14 (A) The authority is authorized to make service cancelable educational loans to
15 residents of Georgia who are eligible members of the Georgia National Guard and who
16 are enrolled at the undergraduate level in a degree program in a private or public
17 college or public postsecondary technical or vocational school located in the state at an
18 eligible postsecondary institution, eligible private postsecondary institution, or eligible
19 public postsecondary institution, as those terms are defined in Code Section 20-3-519.

20 Members of the Georgia National Guard who are in good standing according to
21 applicable regulations of the National Guard shall be eligible to apply for a loan.

22 (B) Prior to making application for the service cancelable educational loan, an
23 applicant shall complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid and make
24 application for all other available grants, scholarships, tuition assistance, and U.S.
25 Department of Veterans Affairs educational benefits that have not been transferred to
26 dependents.

27 (C) Such loans shall be on the terms and conditions set by the authority in consultation
 28 with the Department of Defense, provided that any such loan, when combined with any
 29 other available grants, scholarships, tuition assistance, and U.S. Department of Veterans
 30 Affairs educational benefits, shall not exceed an amount equal to the actual tuition
 31 charged to the recipient for the period of enrollment in an educational institution or the
 32 highest undergraduate in-state tuition charged by the University of Georgia a
 33 postsecondary institution governed by the board of regents for the period of enrollment
 34 at the ~~university~~ postsecondary institution, whichever is less. A loan recipient shall ~~not~~
 35 be eligible to receive loan assistance provided for in this paragraph for not more than
 36 ~~five academic years~~ 120 semester hours of study. Educational loans may be made to
 37 full-time and ~~half-time~~ part-time students.

38 (D) Upon the recipient's attainment of a ~~baccalaureate~~ graduate degree from an
 39 institution or cessation of status as an active member of the Georgia National Guard,
 40 whichever occurs first, eligibility to apply for the loan provided by this paragraph shall
 41 be discontinued.

42 (E) The loan provided by this paragraph ~~may~~ shall be suspended ~~at the discretion of~~ by
 43 the authority for a recipient's failure to maintain good military standing as an active
 44 member for the period required in subparagraph (F) of this paragraph or failure to
 45 maintain sufficient academic standing and good academic progress and program
 46 pursuit. ~~Loans~~ If the recipient fails to maintain good standing as an active member of
 47 the Georgia National Guard for the required period or fails to maintain sufficient
 48 academic standing and good academic progress and program pursuit, loans made under
 49 this paragraph shall be repayable in cash, with interest thereon, ~~or, upon~~.

50 (F) Upon satisfactory completion of a quarter, semester, year, or other period of study
 51 as determined by the authority; graduation; termination of enrollment in school; or
 52 termination of this assistance with approval of the authority, the loan shall be canceled
 53 in consideration of the student's retaining membership in good standing in the Georgia
 54 National Guard ~~during the~~ for a period in of two years following the last period of study
 55 for which the loan is applicable. This two-year service requirement may be waived by
 56 the adjutant general of Georgia for good cause according to applicable regulations of
 57 the Georgia National Guard.

58 (G) The adjutant general of Georgia shall certify eligibility and termination of
 59 eligibility of students for educational loans and eligibility for cancellation of
 60 educational loans by members of the Georgia National Guard in accordance with
 61 regulations of the authority;"

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SECTION 2.

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