

Senate Bill 244

By: Senator Clay of the 37th

AS PASSED

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 postsecondary education, so as to remove a restriction on tuition equalization grants for
3 summer school; to provide a limitation on the total number of semester hours or quarter
4 hours an eligible student may receive a tuition equalization grant; to provide for an exception
5 to the requirement for registration with the United States Selective Service System in order
6 to be eligible for certain scholarships and grants administered by the Student Finance Authority; to
7 provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to postsecondary
11 education, is amended by striking Code Section 20-3-412, relating to entitlements to grants
12 as specified in appropriations Acts and restrictions on grants, and inserting in lieu thereof the
13 following:

14 "20-3-412.

15 Each eligible student is entitled to a tuition equalization grant each academic year, as
16 specified in appropriations Acts of the General Assembly. ~~No grant shall be made to a~~
17 ~~student for study during the period of any summer school quarter or semester unless~~
18 ~~specifically authorized in appropriations Acts of the General Assembly.~~ No grants shall be
19 made to graduate students unless specifically authorized in appropriations Acts of the
20 General Assembly. It is the intent of the General Assembly and the purpose of this program
21 to provide tuition equalization grants to all Georgia students attending approved schools
22 at all levels and throughout the entire calendar year whenever sufficient funds are available
23 to the state. In no event shall an eligible student receive a tuition equalization grant for
24 more than 127 semester hours or 190 quarter hours of his or her undergraduate program.
25 ~~No grant shall be made to any student not enrolled as a full-time student."~~

SECTION 1.1.

Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 20-3-316, relating to powers and duties of the Student Finance Authority, by striking paragraph (4) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"(4) Each applicant who, as of the date of application for financial assistance under this part, is required but has not registered with the Selective Service System of the United States pursuant to 50 U.S.C. Section 453, as amended, shall be ineligible to receive financial assistance under this part. Each applicant shall, under penalty of perjury, certify compliance or noncompliance with the registration requirements of the Military Selective Service Act of the United States and provide such other information as the authority may reasonably require. A person may not be denied state student financial aid by reason of failure to present himself for and submit to registration under Section 3, 50 U.S.C. Appx. 453, if the requirement for the person to so register has terminated or become inapplicable to the person; and the person shows by a preponderance of the evidence that the failure of the person to register was not a knowing and willful failure to register;"

SECTION 2.

This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2004.

SECTION 3.

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