

Senate Bill 43

By: Senators Wiles of the 37th and Douglas of the 17th

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 establish the Georgia
3 HERO (Helping Educate Reservist Offspring) Scholarship; to provide for definitions; to
4 provide for scholarship grants; to provide for application procedures; to provide for rules and
5 regulations; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting
6 laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

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

12 "Subpart 10A

13 20-3-485.

14 As used in this subpart, the term:

15 (1) 'Approved school' means a school which is a unit of the University System of
16 Georgia or a branch of the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education.

17 (2) 'Eligible student' means a person 25 years of age or younger who has been a resident
18 of this state for a period of at least 12 months immediately prior to the date of registration
19 in an approved school, who remains a citizen of the state while receiving funds under this
20 subpart, and who is a child of a member of the Georgia National Guard as such term is
21 defined in Code Section 38-2-3 or of a member of a reserve component of the armed
22 forces of the United States, which member has completed at least one qualifying term of
23 service.

1 (3) 'Georgia HERO Scholarship' means a Georgia Helping Educate Reservist Offspring
2 Scholarship grant as provided for in Code Section 20-3-486.

3 (4) 'Qualifying term of service' means deployment overseas to a location or locations
4 outside of the United States and its territories for active service for a period of 365 days,
5 such service occurring on or after January 1, 2006.

6 20-3-486.

7 There is granted to each eligible student attending an approved school a Georgia HERO
8 Scholarship grant in the sum of \$2,000.00 per academic year for each qualifying term of
9 service of such student's parent. No person shall be eligible to receive grant assistance
10 provided under this subpart in excess of \$8,000.00. Grant assistance to eligible students
11 under this subpart shall be payable during the period of a summer school quarter or
12 semester. The payment of grants to eligible students under this subpart shall be contingent
13 upon the appropriation of funds by the General Assembly for the purposes of this subpart
14 in annual appropriations Acts of the General Assembly.

15 20-3-487.

16 (a) Any person meeting the conditions of this subpart may apply to the authority for a
17 grant. Such application shall be submitted in writing on forms prescribed by the authority
18 for such purpose. The applicant shall furnish such information as may be required by the
19 authority for determination of eligibility for the grant. The authority shall approve grant
20 renewals only upon receipt of the recipient's application therefor and upon a finding that
21 the recipient has successfully completed the work of the preceding school period and
22 presents evidence that he or she is a student in good standing, that he or she remains a
23 citizen of this state, and that he or she remains otherwise qualified to receive such grant
24 under this subpart.

25 (b) The authority is authorized to prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary
26 or convenient for administration of this program and to establish procedures for
27 determination of eligibility of applicants. The authority is also authorized to establish
28 standards and procedures for verifying the overseas deployment service of the applicant's
29 parent."

30 SECTION 2.

31 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2005.

32 SECTION 3.

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