

The Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee offered the following substitute to SB 512:

ADOPTED

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 grants to
3 students attending North Georgia College and State University who accept a military
4 commission; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for a definition; to provide for the
5 amount of the grant; to provide for application for grants, certification of eligibility, and
6 refunds; to provide for a pro rata reduction when funds are insufficient; to provide for audits
7 of the college; to provide for a penalty for false statements; to provide for related matters; to
8 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **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 "Subpart 6A

15 20-3-440.

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 North Georgia College and State University, Georgia's only state
19 supported military college, plays a significant role in preparing and training students for
20 professional life in the military as a profession. It is the purpose of the General Assembly,
21 as provided for in this subpart, to encourage students to enroll in North Georgia College
22 and State University and its military training program and to encourage such students to
23 accept military commissions by providing for tuition grant assistance to such students.

1 20-3-441.

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

3 (1) Is enrolled in or accepted for enrollment in North Georgia College and State
4 University for a minimum of 12 academic hours;

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

7 (3) Is enrolled in or plans to enroll in the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps
8 program at North Georgia College and State University; and

9 (4) Has signed a contract to accept a commission, to be effective upon graduation, no
10 later than the end of the student's junior year as an officer in the Army, Army Reserve,
11 or Army National Guard.

12 20-3-442.

13 There is granted to each eligible student attending North Georgia College and State
14 University the sum of \$1,500.00 per academic semester.

15 20-3-443.

16 Each eligible student wishing to receive the grant provided for in this subpart shall submit
17 to North Georgia College and State University an application for the grant payment at the
18 time and in accordance with procedures prescribed by the authority. The authority is
19 authorized to define such terms and prescribe such rules, regulations, and procedures as
20 may be reasonable and necessary to carry out the purposes of this subpart. The authority
21 shall not approve payment of any grant until it has received from an appropriate officer of
22 North Georgia College and State University a certification that the student applying for the
23 grant is an eligible student. Upon timely receipt of such certification, in proper form, the
24 authority is authorized to pay the grant to North Georgia College and State University on
25 behalf of and to the credit of the student. In the event a student on whose behalf a grant is
26 paid shall not enroll as a full-time student for the school term for which the grant is paid,
27 North Georgia College and State University shall make a refund to the authority in
28 accordance with regulations of the authority.

29 20-3-444.

30 In the event funds available to the authority are not sufficient to enable the authority to pay
31 on behalf of eligible students the full grant prescribed by the General Assembly, grants
32 payable for the remaining school terms shall be reduced by the authority on a pro rata basis.

1 20-3-445.

2 North Georgia College and State University shall be subject to examination by the state
3 auditor for the sole purpose of determining whether the school has properly certified
4 eligibility and enrollment of students and credited grants paid on behalf of such students.
5 However, nothing in this subpart shall be construed to interfere with the authority of the
6 school to determine admissibility of students or to control its own curriculum, philosophy,
7 purpose, or administration. In the event it is determined that the school knowingly or
8 through error certified an ineligible student to be eligible for a grant under this subpart, the
9 amount of the grant paid to the school pursuant to such certification shall be refunded by
10 the school to the authority.

11 20-3-446.

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

16 **SECTION 2.**

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