

Senate Bill 278

By: Senators Rogers of the 21st, Williams of the 19th, Moody of the 56th, Harp of the 29th,
Staton of the 18th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, so as to
2 provide for graduation from high school in three years; to provide for grants for graduate
3 postsecondary education for a high school student who graduates in three years; to provide
4 for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, is amended in
8 Code Section 20-2-140, relating to the establishment by the State Board of Education of
9 competencies and uniformly sequenced core curriculum, as follows:

10 "20-2-140.

11 (a) The State Board of Education shall establish competencies that each student is
12 expected to master prior to completion of the student's public school education. The state
13 board shall also establish competencies for which each student should be provided
14 opportunities, at the discretion of the student and the student's parents, to master. Based
15 upon these foregoing competencies, the state board shall adopt a uniformly sequenced core
16 curriculum for grades kindergarten through 12. Each local unit of administration shall
17 include this uniformly sequenced core curriculum as the basis for its own curriculum,
18 although each local unit may expand and enrich this curriculum to the extent it deems
19 necessary and appropriate for its students and communities.

20 (b) The State Board of Education shall establish a curriculum that allows a student in ninth
21 grade to graduate from high school in three years. The state board shall provide notice to
22 all high school students in this state of the availability of the postsecondary graduate
23 education grants available to students who graduate from high school in three years
24 pursuant to this subsection."

25 **SECTION 2.**

26 Said title is further amended in Part 3 of Article 7 of Chapter 3, relating to the Georgia
27 Student Finance Authority, by adding a new subpart to read as follows:

28 "Subpart 1229 20-3-495.

30 (a) There shall be granted to each student who graduates from a Georgia public high
31 school in three years pursuant to subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-140 up to the sum of
32 \$5,000.00 for tuition for graduate coursework at an institution of the University System of
33 Georgia. No student shall be eligible to receive grant assistance provided under this
34 subpart in excess of tuition equivalent to 45 quarter hours. Grant assistance to eligible
35 students under this subpart shall be payable during the student's first year of enrollment in
36 such graduate coursework. The payment of grants to eligible students under this subpart
37 shall be contingent upon the appropriation of funds by the General Assembly for the
38 purposes of this subpart in annual appropriations Acts of the General Assembly.

39 (b) This Code section shall apply to students graduating from high school pursuant to
40 subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-140 on and after July 1, 2009.

41 20-3-496.

42 (a) Any student meeting the conditions of Code Section 20-3-495 may apply to the
43 authority for a grant under this subpart. Such application shall be submitted in writing on
44 forms prescribed by the authority for such purpose. The applicant shall furnish such
45 information as may be required by the authority for determination of eligibility for the
46 grant.

47 (b) The authority is authorized to prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary
48 or convenient for administration of this program and to establish procedures for
49 determination of eligibility of applicants. The authority is also authorized to establish
50 standards and procedures for verifying the student's early graduation from high school."

51 **SECTION 3.**

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