

The House Committee on Higher Education offers the following substitute to HB 74:

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 legislative
3 findings; to provide for definitions; to provide for tuition grant assistance for certain students
4 attending Georgia Military College; to provide for the manner of applying for such grants;
5 to provide for reductions of grant amounts under certain circumstances; to provide for audits;
6 to provide for refunds under certain circumstances; to provide for penalties for false
7 statements; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 SECTION 1.

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

13 "Subpart 6B

14 20-3-448.

15 The General Assembly finds that it is essential for the national defense that persons be
16 encouraged to consider military leadership positions as an honorable and rewarding
17 profession and that Georgia Military College plays a significant role in preparing and
18 training students for life in the military as a profession. It is the purpose of the General
19 Assembly, as provided for in this subpart, to encourage students to enroll in Georgia
20 Military College and its military training program and to encourage such students to accept
21 military commissions by providing for tuition grant assistance to such students.

22 20-3-448.1.

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

- 24 (1) Is enrolled in or accepted for enrollment in Georgia Military College for a minimum
25 of 12 academic hours;
26 (2) Is or will be a citizen of this state for a period of at least 12 months immediately prior
27 to the date of registration therein;
28 (3) Is enrolled in or plans to enroll in the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps
29 program at Georgia Military College; and
30 (4) Has signed a contract to accept a commission, to be effective upon graduation, as an
31 officer in any branch of the armed services of the United States or the Army National
32 Guard.

33 20-3-448.2.

34 Subject to funds being appropriated by the General Assembly for such purposes, there is
35 granted to each eligible student attending Georgia Military College the sum of \$1,000.00
36 per academic quarter.

37 20-3-448.3.

38 Each eligible student wishing to receive the grant provided for in this subpart shall submit
39 to Georgia Military College an application for the grant payment at the time and in
40 accordance with procedures prescribed by the authority. The authority is authorized to
41 define such terms and prescribe such rules, regulations, and procedures as may be
42 reasonable and necessary to carry out the purposes of this subpart. The authority shall not
43 approve payment of any grant until it has received from an appropriate officer of Georgia
44 Military College a certification that the student applying for the grant is an eligible student.
45 Upon timely receipt of such certification, in proper form, the authority is authorized to pay
46 the grant to Georgia Military College on behalf of and to the credit of the student. In the
47 event a student on whose behalf a grant is paid shall not enroll as a full-time student for the
48 school term for which the grant is paid, Georgia Military College shall make a refund to
49 the authority in accordance with regulations of the authority.

50 20-3-448.4.

51 In the event funds appropriated to the authority by the General Assembly for the grants
52 provided for in this subpart are not sufficient to enable the authority to pay on behalf of
53 eligible students the full grant prescribed by the General Assembly, grants payable for the
54 remaining school terms shall be reduced by the authority on a pro rata basis.

55 20-3-448.5.

56 Georgia Military College shall be subject to examination by the state auditor for the sole
57 purpose of determining whether the school has properly certified eligibility and enrollment
58 of students and credited grants paid on behalf of such students. However, nothing in this
59 subpart shall be construed to interfere with the authority of the school to determine
60 admissibility of students or to control its own curriculum, philosophy, purpose, or
61 administration. In the event it is determined that the school knowingly or through error
62 certified an ineligible student to be eligible for a grant under this subpart, the amount of the
63 grant paid to the school pursuant to such certification shall be refunded by the school to the
64 authority.

65 20-3-448.6.

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

70 **SECTION 2.**

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