

The House Committee on Higher Education offers the following substitute to HB 54:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Subpart 1 of Part 3 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of
2 Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions regarding the Georgia Student Finance
3 Authority, so as to provide for voluntary donations through state income tax returns and
4 drivers' licenses for funding undergraduate tuition grants to children of law enforcement
5 officers, firefighters, prison guards, and Highway Emergency Response Operators of the
6 Department of Transportation who were disabled or killed in the line of duty; to provide for
7 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Subpart 1 of Part 3 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
11 Annotated, relating to general provisions regarding the Georgia Student Finance Authority,
12 is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

13 "20-3-316.2.

14 (a)(1) Each Georgia income tax return form for taxable years beginning on or after
15 January 1, 2016, shall contain appropriate language, to be determined by the state revenue
16 commissioner, offering the taxpayer the opportunity to contribute to the Georgia Student
17 Finance Authority to provide financial assistance toward the postsecondary educational
18 costs of the children of law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical
19 technicians, and prison guards employed by the state or other public employer and
20 Highway Emergency Response Operators of the Department of Transportation who were
21 permanently disabled or killed in the line of duty by either donating all or any part of any
22 tax refund due and by authorizing a reduction in the refund check otherwise payable or
23 by contributing any amount over and above any amount of tax owed by adding that
24 amount to the taxpayer's payment. The instructions accompanying the income tax return
25 shall include a description of the intended use of the moneys received from the
26 contributions. Each taxpayer required to file a state income tax return who desires to

27 contribute to the Georgia Student Finance Authority may designate such contribution as
28 provided on the appropriate income tax return form.

29 (2) The Department of Revenue shall determine annually the total amount so contributed
30 and shall transmit such amount to the Georgia Student Finance Authority.

31 (b) Beginning January 1, 2016, the Department of Driver Services shall, through
32 appropriate language on its forms for the issuance and renewal of drivers' licenses and
33 identification cards, offer individuals the opportunity to make voluntary contributions to
34 the Georgia Student Finance Authority to provide financial assistance toward the
35 postsecondary educational costs of the children of law enforcement officers, firefighters,
36 emergency medical technicians, and prison guards employed by the state or other public
37 employer and Highway Emergency Response Operators of the Department of
38 Transportation who were permanently disabled or killed in the line of duty. The form shall
39 contain a description of the intended use of moneys received from the contributions. Each
40 individual who desires to contribute may designate such contribution on the appropriate
41 form, and the Department of Driver Services shall accept such contribution. The
42 Department of Driver Services shall determine annually the total amount so contributed,
43 shall withhold therefrom a reasonable amount for administering this voluntary contribution
44 program, and shall transmit the balance to the Georgia Student Finance Authority for
45 funding, in whole or in part, the postsecondary educational costs of such students. If, in
46 any tax year, the administrative costs of the Department of Driver Services for collecting
47 contributions pursuant to this subsection exceed the sum of such contributions, the
48 administrative costs which the Department of Driver Services is authorized to withhold
49 from such contributions shall not exceed the sum of such contributions."

50 **SECTION 2.**

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