

House Bill 736

By: Representatives Belton of the 112th, Glanton of the 75th, Taylor of the 173rd, Greene of the 151st, and Stovall of the 74th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to scholarships, loans, and grants for postsecondary education, so as to establish a
3 loan forgiveness program for teachers who agree to teach in a turnaround school in a high
4 demand subject area; to provide for requirements for participation; to provide for payment;
5 to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
9 scholarships, loans, and grants for postsecondary education, is amended by adding a new part
10 to read as follows:

11 "Part 4

12 20-3-495.

13 (a) The Georgia Student Finance Commission shall establish and administer a loan
14 forgiveness program for postsecondary education loans for teachers who agree to teach in
15 a public school designated as a turnaround school pursuant to Part 3A of Article 2 of
16 Chapter 14 of this title. The commission is authorized to prescribe all rules, regulations,
17 policies, and procedures necessary or convenient for the administration of such program
18 and all terms and conditions applicable to payments made under this Code section.

19 (b) To be eligible to participate in the loan forgiveness program, a teacher shall:

20 (1) Have attained a bachelor's degree in education from a postsecondary institution
21 located within this state;

22 (2) Have an outstanding loan balance for postsecondary education received at a
23 postsecondary institution located within this state; and

24 (3) Agree to teach mathematics, science, special education, or any other subject matter
25 determined to be a high demand subject area by the commission in a public school
26 designated as a turnaround school pursuant to Part 3A of Article 2 of Chapter 14 of this
27 title for at least five years.

28 (c) The commission may distribute education loan repayment assistance for such teacher
29 in a lump sum or through monthly debt service payments. The loan repayment assistance
30 provided pursuant to this Code section shall apply only to loan amounts attributable to the
31 costs of tuition not covered by the teacher's HOPE scholarship and shall not include any
32 loan amounts attributable to books, fees, or living expenses.

33 (d) The funds appropriated to the loan forgiveness program shall be available to eligible
34 teachers strictly on a first-come, first-served basis until the funds run out.

35 (e) Nothing in this Code section shall preclude the obligations of a teacher to repay his or
36 her student loan by cash or by service.

37 (f) This Code section shall be subject to appropriations of the General Assembly."

38 **SECTION 2.**

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