

House Bill 249

By: Representatives Martin of the 49<sup>th</sup>, Hilton of the 48<sup>th</sup>, Jones of the 47<sup>th</sup>, McDonald of the 26<sup>th</sup>, and Gaines of the 120<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Subpart 2A of Part 3 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of  
2 Georgia Annotated, relating to the needs based financial aid program, so as to provide for a  
3 definition; to provide for a maximum award amount; to provide for related matters; to repeal  
4 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

7 Subpart 2A of Part 3 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia  
8 Annotated, relating to the needs based financial aid program, is amended by revising  
9 paragraph (1) of Code Section 20-3-360, relating to definitions, as follows:

10 "(1) 'Eligible student' means a person:

- 11 (A) Whose family income is considered economically disadvantaged, based on criteria  
12 established by the commission, or who has a financial aid gap;
- 13 (B) Who meets any academic or other standards established by the commission;
- 14 (C) Who is eligible for a scholarship or grant pursuant to Code Section 20-3-519.1;
- 15 (D) Who has completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); and
- 16 (E) Who has completed:

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- 17 (i) Seventy ~~80~~ percent of the credit requirements toward the credential of his or her  
18 program of study, if such program is a four-year program; or  
19 (ii) Forty-five percent of the credit requirements toward the credential of his or her  
20 program of study, if such program is a two-year program."

21 **SECTION 2.**

22 Said subpart is further amended by revising Code Section 20-3-361, relating to grants,  
23 individualized eligibility criteria, and criteria for retention, as follows:

24 "20-3-361.

25 Subject to appropriations, the commission shall establish a needs based financial aid  
26 program to provide grants to eligible students for undergraduate level postsecondary  
27 education at qualified institutions. The maximum award amount per eligible student shall  
28 be ~~\$2,500~~ \$2,500.00 in total. The commission may provide for individualized eligibility  
29 criteria and grant amounts as determined to be the most appropriate for the particular  
30 qualified institution and its student population in accordance with this subpart and the rules  
31 and regulations of the commission. The commission shall also establish criteria necessary  
32 for eligible students to retain and continue to receive such grants in accordance with this  
33 subpart."

34 **SECTION 3.**

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