

House Bill 249 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

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

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to industry services training program, so as to provide for certain tuition-free
3 programs that relate to the operation of a commercial motor vehicle for veterans; to amend
4 Subpart 2A of Part 3 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
5 Annotated, relating to the needs based financial aid program, so as to provide for a definition;
6 to provide for a maximum award amount; to provide for a maximum single payment amount;
7 to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and
8 for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 Article 3 of Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
12 industry services training program, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as
13 follows:

14 "20-4-43.1.

15 Subject to appropriations by the General Assembly for such purposes, the training
16 programs under this article entered into on or before June 30, 2025, by a qualified

17 participant that relate to the operation of a commercial motor vehicle shall be tuition free.
 18 For purposes of this Code section, a qualified participant shall be a veteran of the United
 19 States armed forces who was honorably discharged as evidenced by United States
 20 Department of Defense Form 214 or National Guard Bureau Form 22."

21 **SECTION 2.**

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

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

26 (A) Whose family income is considered economically disadvantaged, based on criteria
 27 established by the commission, or who has a financial aid gap;

28 (B) Who meets any academic or other standards established by the commission;

29 (C) Who is eligible for a scholarship or grant pursuant to Code Section 20-3-519.1;

30 (D) Who has completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); and

31 (E) Who has completed:

32 (i) Seventy 80 percent of the credit requirements toward the credential of his or her
 33 program of study, if such program is a four-year program; or

34 (ii) Forty-five percent of the credit requirements toward the credential of his or her
 35 program of study, if such program is a two-year program."

36 **SECTION 3.**

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

39 "20-3-361.

40 Subject to appropriations, the commission shall establish a needs based financial aid
 41 program to provide grants to eligible students for undergraduate level postsecondary

42 education at qualified institutions. The maximum award amount per eligible student shall
43 be ~~\$2,500~~ \$3,500.00 in total, provided that no single payment for an eligible student shall
44 exceed \$2,500.00. The commission may provide for individualized eligibility criteria and
45 grant amounts as determined to be the most appropriate for the particular qualified
46 institution and its student population in accordance with this subpart and the rules and
47 regulations of the commission. The commission shall also establish criteria necessary for
48 eligible students to retain and continue to receive such grants in accordance with this
49 subpart."

50 **SECTION 4.**

51 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
52 without such approval.

53 **SECTION 5.**

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