

House Bill 1366

By: Representatives Carter of the 93<sup>rd</sup>, Smith of the 41<sup>st</sup>, Park of the 107<sup>th</sup>, Evans of the 57<sup>th</sup>,  
Glaize of the 67<sup>th</sup>, and others

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 create the Georgia  
3 Teacher Retention Scholarship to provide scholarships to children of public school teachers  
4 who have been teaching for at least ten years to cover the cost of tuition at eligible  
5 postsecondary institutions; to provide for eligibility; to provide for scholarship award  
6 amounts; to provide for continued eligibility; to provide for applications; to provide for  
7 definitions; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for an effective date and  
8 applicability; to provide for a funding contingency; to provide for related matters; to provide  
9 a short title; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Georgia Teacher Retention Scholarship  
13 Act."

**SECTION 2.**

14  
15 Part 3 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
16 relating to the Georgia Student Finance Authority, is amended by adding a new subpart to  
17 read as follows:

18 "Subpart 7D

19 20-3-467.

20 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

21 (1) 'Authority' means the Georgia Student Finance Authority.

22 (2) 'Certificate' or 'diploma' shall have the same meaning as set forth in Code Section  
23 20-3-519.

24 (3) 'Eligible postsecondary institution' means an institution of the University System of  
25 Georgia and a unit of the Technical College System of Georgia.

26 (4) 'Eligible student' means a person who qualifies for a scholarship under this Code  
27 section.

28 (5) 'First professional degree' means a degree earned through a first professional degree  
29 program.

30 (6) 'First professional degree program' shall have the same meaning as set forth in Code  
31 Section 20-3-519.

32 (7) 'Georgia Teacher Retention Scholarship' or 'scholarship' means the scholarship  
33 provided for in this Code section.

34 (8) 'Matriculated status' shall have the same meaning as set forth in Code Section  
35 20-3-519.

36 (9) 'Public school teacher' shall have the same meaning as set forth in Code Section  
37 20-2-880.

38 (10) 'Quarter hours' shall have the same meaning as set forth in Code Section 20-3-519.

39 (11) 'Semester hours' shall have the same meaning as set forth in Code Section 20-3-519.

40 (12) 'Title IV' shall have the same meaning as set forth in Code Section 20-3-519.

41 (13) 'Tuition' shall have the same meaning as set forth in Code Section 20-3-519.

42 (b) The authority shall be authorized to award a Georgia Teacher Retention Scholarship  
43 to each eligible student in an amount not to exceed such student's tuition. The payment of  
44 scholarships to eligible students under this Code section and the amount of such  
45 scholarships shall be contingent upon the appropriation of funds by the General Assembly  
46 for the purposes of this Code section in annual appropriations Acts of the General  
47 Assembly.

48 (c) To be eligible for a scholarship under this Code section, a person shall:

49 (1) Meet the requirements provided for in paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of Code  
50 Section 20-3-519.1 and shall not meet any of the ineligibility criteria provided for in  
51 subsection (b) of Code Section 20-3-519.1;

52 (2) Be the child, either natural or adopted, of a public school teacher who has taught in  
53 a public school in this state for not less than ten years;

54 (3) Meet enrollment standards by being admitted, enrolled, and classified as an  
55 undergraduate student in a matriculated status in a program of study leading to a  
56 certificate or diploma or baccalaureate or first professional degree at an eligible  
57 postsecondary institution and maintaining satisfactory academic progress in accordance  
58 with the standards and practices used for federal Title IV programs by the institution at  
59 which the student is enrolled;

60 (4) Not yet have earned a baccalaureate or first professional degree; and

61 (5) Not have attempted 190 or more quarter hours or 127 or more semester hours at any  
62 postsecondary institution.

63 (d) Any eligible student may apply to the authority for a scholarship. Such application  
64 shall be submitted in writing on forms prescribed by the authority for such purpose. The  
65 applicant shall furnish such information as may be required by the authority for

66 determination of eligibility for the scholarship. The authority shall approve scholarship  
67 renewals only upon receipt of the recipient's application therefor and upon a finding that  
68 the recipient has successfully completed the work of the preceding school period and  
69 presents evidence that he or she remains otherwise qualified to receive such scholarship  
70 under this Code section.

71 (e) The authority is authorized to prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary  
72 or convenient for administration of this Code section and to establish procedures for  
73 determination of eligibility of applicants."

74 **SECTION 3.**

75 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2026, and shall apply to all academic years  
76 beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year.

77 **SECTION 4.**

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