

Senate Bill 237

By: Senators Hatchett of the 50th and Hodges of the 3rd

**AS PASSED SENATE**

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 provide for student  
3 loan repayment for peace officers; to provide for definitions; to provide for eligibility  
4 requirements; to provide for continued eligibility requirements; to provide for student loan  
5 repayment agreements and conditions; to provide for maximum student loan repayment  
6 amounts; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for appropriations contingency; to  
7 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 Part 3 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
12 relating to the Georgia Student Finance Authority, is amended by adding a new subpart to  
13 read as follows:

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14 "Subpart 7A15 20-3-460.16 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:17 (1) 'Course of study' means an undergraduate degree program.18 (2) 'Eligible applicant' means a person who is a legal resident of this state as established  
19 by rules and regulations of the authority and:20 (A) Became employed as a full-time peace officer in this state for the first time on or  
21 after January 1, 2023, is currently employed as a full-time peace officer in this state,  
22 and has completed a course of study; or23 (B) Is currently employed as a full-time peace officer in this state, has been so  
24 employed for at least a year, and is enrolled in a course of study in the field of criminal  
25 justice.26 (3) 'Peace officer' has the same meaning as provided in Code Section 35-8-2.27 (4) 'Recipient' means an eligible applicant who applied for and was approved by the  
28 authority for student loan repayment under this Code section.29 (5) 'Student loan' means debt incurred by a recipient that is:30 (A) Evidenced by a promissory note which required the funds received to be used to  
31 pay for the cost of attendance for a course of study of the recipient;32 (B) Not in default at the time of application for repayment under this Code section; and33 (C) Not subject to an existing service obligation or to repayment through another  
34 student loan repayment or loan forgiveness program or to repayment as a condition of  
35 employment.36 (b) The authority is authorized to approve the applications of eligible applicants submitted  
37 in accordance with rules and regulations established by the authority governing the student  
38 loan repayment application process.

39 (c) The authority is authorized to provide for the repayment of student loans held by a  
40 recipient in consideration of the recipient performing services as a full-time peace officer.  
41 A student loan repayment made pursuant to this Code section shall be paid in such manner  
42 as the authority shall establish by rules and regulations.

43 (d)(1) Each recipient, before being granted any student loan repayment, shall enter into  
44 a student loan repayment agreement with the authority agreeing to the terms and  
45 conditions upon which the student loan repayment is granted, including such terms and  
46 conditions set forth in this Code section.

47 (2) The authority shall have the power to terminate a student loan repayment agreement  
48 at any time for any cause deemed sufficient by the authority, provided that such power  
49 shall not be arbitrarily or unreasonably exercised.

50 (e) Each student loan repayment agreement entered into with the authority pursuant to this  
51 Code section shall be signed by the director of the authority and by the recipient and shall:

52 (1) Provide for repayment of the recipient's student loans in a total amount as the  
53 authority shall determine, but not exceeding a maximum of \$20,000.00 or the total  
54 student loan debt of the recipient, whichever is less, to be paid out over a term of not  
55 more than five years in installments made on an annual basis;

56 (2) Provide that any payment made by the authority under a student loan repayment  
57 agreement shall be made in consideration of services rendered by the recipient as a  
58 full-time peace officer; and

59 (3) Require that the recipient remain a legal resident of this state as established by rules  
60 and regulations of the authority and be employed as a full-time peace officer in this state  
61 at all times during the term of the agreement.

62 (f) The authority shall adopt such rules and regulations as are reasonable and necessary to  
63 implement the provisions of this Code section.

64 (g) Student loan repayment for recipients having entered into a student loan repayment  
65 agreement with the authority pursuant to this Code section shall be contingent upon the

66 appropriation of funds by the General Assembly for the purposes of this Code section in  
67 annual appropriations Acts of the General Assembly."

68 **SECTION 2.**

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

71 **SECTION 3.**

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