

House Bill 88

By: Representatives Barnes of the 86th, Drenner of the 85th, Clark of the 108th, Frye of the 122nd, Burnough of the 77th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 6A of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to state veterinary education, so as to provide for biomedical technicians
3 to be eligible for the state student loan forgiveness program; to provide for a definition; to
4 provide for conditions and eligibility; to provide for terms of the loan purchase agreement;
5 to provide for cancellation; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
6 other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Part 6A of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
10 relating to state veterinary education, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as
11 follows:

12 "20-3-518.8.

13 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'biomedical technician' means a technician
14 trained in biomedical sciences, an animal care technician or a veterinary technician who
15 works in a biomedical research facility, is a resident of Georgia, and is enrolled in or within
16 five years of final coursework for such profession.

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17 (b) The board may provide for the purchase of loans for educational purposes made to a
18 biomedical technician who is authorized to work in this state, with services in the form of
19 the practice of his or her profession in a board approved rural county in Georgia with a
20 population of 50,000 or less according to the United States decennial census of 2020 or any
21 future such census to be rendered as consideration for such loan purchases.

22 (c) Persons whose applications are approved and who enter into a loan purchase agreement
23 with the board shall receive a loan purchase in a total amount to be determined by the
24 board, but not exceeding \$30,000.00 per person. No person shall be eligible to receive
25 such award more than once during his or her lifetime. The loan purchases shall be paid in
26 such manner as the board shall determine.

27 (d) The board shall not enter into new loan purchase agreements with more than five
28 persons per year; provided, however, that the total sum of loan purchases from state
29 appropriations for which the board contractually obligates itself in any fiscal year shall not
30 exceed the amount of funds for such loan purchase purposes specified in annual
31 appropriations Acts. Funds in the loan purchase fund account that are not expended or
32 contractually obligated by the board for loan purchases during any fiscal year shall lapse.

33 (e) Each applicant, before being granted a loan purchase, shall enter into a loan purchase
34 agreement with the board agreeing to the terms and conditions upon which the loan
35 purchase is granted, including such terms and conditions as will carry out the full purpose
36 and intent of this part. The form of such agreement shall be prepared and approved by the
37 Attorney General, and each agreement shall be signed by the chairperson of the board and
38 by the applicant.

39 (f) The board shall have the authority to cancel the loan purchase agreement of any
40 applicant at any time for any cause deemed sufficient by the board, provided that such
41 authority shall not be arbitrarily or unreasonably exercised."

42

SECTION 2.

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