

House Bill 716

By: Representatives Berry of the 56<sup>th</sup>, Carpenter of the 4<sup>th</sup>, Frye of the 122<sup>nd</sup>, Park of the 107<sup>th</sup>, Sanchez of the 42<sup>nd</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 establish a needs  
3 based grant program to combat food insecurity among postsecondary students; to provide  
4 definitions; to provide for a maximum award amount; to provide for applications; to provide  
5 for rules, regulations, and procedures; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting  
6 laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

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

12 "Subpart 2B

13 20-3-367.

14 As used in this subpart, the term:

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15 (1) 'Commission' means the Georgia Student Finance Commission created by Code  
16 Section 20-3-233.

17 (2) 'Eligible postsecondary institution' shall have the same meaning as set forth in Code  
18 Section 20-3-519.

19 (3) 'Eligible student' means a person:

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

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

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

24 (D) Who has completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

25 (4) 'Financial aid gap' means the monetary amount remaining after other funding, as  
26 determined by the commission, for the cost of attendance certified by an eligible  
27 postsecondary institution.

28

29 20-3-368.

30 (a) Subject to appropriations, the commission shall establish a needs based financial aid  
31 program to provide grants to eligible students enrolled at an eligible postsecondary  
32 institution for the purpose of combating food insecurity among postsecondary students.  
33 The maximum award per eligible student shall not exceed an amount equal to the highest  
34 cost meal plan of the postsecondary institution attended by such eligible student. The  
35 commission may provide for individualized eligibility criteria and grant amounts as  
36 determined to be the most appropriate for the particular eligible postsecondary institution  
37 and its student population in accordance with this subpart. The commission shall also  
38 establish criteria necessary for eligible students to retain and continue to receive such  
39 grants in accordance with this subpart.

40 (b) Each eligible student wishing to receive a grant pursuant to this subpart shall submit  
41 a grant application in accordance with the rules, regulations, and procedures prescribed by

42 the commission. The commission is authorized to define such terms and prescribe such  
43 rules, regulations, and procedures as may be reasonable and necessary to carry out the  
44 purposes of this subpart. In the event a student on whose behalf a grant is paid does not  
45 enroll as a full-time or part-time student for the academic semester for which the grant is  
46 paid, the qualified institution shall make a refund to the commission in accordance with the  
47 rules and regulations of the commission."

48

**SECTION 2.**

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