

The House Committee on Higher Education offers the following substitute to HB 88:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to scholarships, loans, and grants, so as to provide for the purchase of loans made
3 to students for educational purposes for veterinary technicians; to provide for definitions;
4 to 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 Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
10 scholarships, loans, and grants, is amended by adding a new part to read as follows:

11 "Part 6B

12 20-3-518.8.

13 As used in this part, the term:

H. B. 88 (SUB)

14 (1) 'Board' means the State Veterinary Education Board created under Code
15 Section 20-3-518.2.

16 (2) 'Veterinary technician' shall have the same meaning as set forth in Code
17 Section 43-50-3.

18 20-3-518.9.

19 (a) Beginning January 1, 2026, the board may provide for the purchase of loans made to
20 students for educational purposes who have completed a program of study in the field of
21 veterinary technology or its equivalent and are authorized to practice veterinary technology
22 in this state and are residents of this state, with services in the form of the practice of
23 veterinary technology while residing in this state to be rendered as consideration for such
24 loan purchases.

25 (b) Only persons who have been practicing veterinary technology for ten years or less shall
26 be eligible for loan purchases under this part. No person shall be eligible for a loan
27 purchase under this part more than once in his or her lifetime.

28 20-3-518.10.

29 (a)(1) Subject to appropriations, persons whose applications are approved and enter into
30 a loan purchase agreement with the board, as provided by Code Section 20-3-518.9, shall
31 receive a loan purchase in a total amount to be determined by the board, but not
32 exceeding \$30,000.00 per person. The loan purchases shall be paid in such manner as the
33 board shall determine.

34 (2) The loan purchases to be granted to each applicant shall be based upon the condition
35 that the consideration for such loan purchases shall be services to be rendered by the
36 applicant after entering into a loan purchase agreement with the board by practicing
37 veterinary technology full time in any board approved rural county in Georgia with a

38 population of 50,000 or less according to the United States decennial census of 2020 or
39 any future such census.

40 (3) For time served after entering into a loan purchase agreement with the board in
41 practicing his or her profession full time in such board approved location, the applicant
42 shall receive a loan purchase at a rate equivalent to \$10,000.00 per 12 months of service;
43 provided, however, that the total purchase amount shall not exceed the maximum
44 specified in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

45 (b) The board shall not enter into new loan purchase agreements with more than five
46 persons per year pursuant to this part; provided, however, that the total sum of loan
47 purchases from state appropriations for which the board contractually obligates itself in any
48 fiscal year shall not exceed the amount of funds for such loan purchase agreements
49 specified in annual appropriations Acts. Funds in the loan purchase fund account that are
50 not expended or contractually obligated by the board for loan purchases during any fiscal
51 year shall lapse.

52 20-3-518.11.

53 (a) Each applicant before being granted a loan purchase shall enter into a contract with a
54 term of three consecutive years with the board agreeing to the terms and conditions upon
55 which the loan purchase is granted, including such terms and provisions as will carry out
56 the full purpose and intent of this part. It shall not be necessary for a contract enrollee to
57 reapply after entering into a contract; provided, however, that the board may require the
58 contract enrollee to provide an annual certification of continued compliance with this Code
59 section. The form of such contract shall be prepared and approved by the Attorney
60 General, and each contract shall be signed by the chairperson of the board and by the
61 applicant.

62 (b) The board shall have the authority to cancel the loan purchase contract of any applicant
63 at any time for any cause deemed sufficient by the board, provided that such authority shall
64 not be arbitrarily or unreasonably exercised.

65 (c) The board shall adopt such rules and regulations as are reasonable and necessary to
66 implement the provisions of this part."

67 **SECTION 2.**

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