

House Bill 867

By: Representatives Barnes of the 86th, Glaize of the 67th, Burnough of the 77th, Mitchell of the 88th, Schofield of the 63rd, 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 pilot
3 program to provide grants to eligible students to assist with the cost of attending an approved
4 school of barbering, school of cosmetology, school of esthetics, school of hair design, or
5 school of nail care; to provide eligibility; to provide for maximum award amounts; to
6 provide for applications; to provide for rules and regulations and compliance by approved
7 schools; to provide for the collection of data and evaluation of the program; to provide for
8 automatic repeal; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
9 purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

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

H. B. 867

15 "Subpart 2B

16 20-3-367.

17 As used in this subpart, the term:

18 (1) 'Approved school' means a school of barbering, a school of cosmetology, a school of
19 esthetics, a school of hair design, or a school of nail care, which is:

20 (A) Located in this state; and

21 (B) Accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency recognized by the United
22 States Department of Education.

23 (2) 'Eligible student' means a person:

24 (A) Who is enrolled or accepted for enrollment at an approved school;

25 (B) Whose family income is considered economically disadvantaged, based on criteria
26 established by the commission, or who has a financial aid gap; and

27 (C) Who is eligible for a scholarship or grant pursuant to Code Section 20-3-519.1.

28 (3) 'Financial aid gap' means the monetary amount remaining after other funding, as
29 determined by the commission, for the cost of attendance certified by an approved school.

30 (4) 'School of barbering,' 'school of cosmetology,' 'school of esthetics,' 'school of hair
31 design,' and 'school of nail care' shall have the same meanings as provided for in Code
32 Section 43-10-1.

33 20-3-368.

34 (a) Subject to appropriations, the commission shall establish a pilot financial aid program
35 to provide grants to eligible students to assist with the cost of attending an approved school.

36 The maximum total award amount per eligible student shall be \$10,000.00 in total. The
37 commission shall not award more than \$50,000.00 in grants per year. The commission
38 may provide for individualized eligibility criteria and grant amounts as determined to be
39 the most appropriate for the particular approved school and its student population in

40 accordance with this subpart and the rules and regulations of the commission. The
41 commission shall also establish criteria necessary for eligible students to retain and
42 continue to receive such grants in accordance with this subpart.

43 (b) Each eligible student wishing to receive a grant pursuant to this subpart shall submit
44 a grant application in accordance with the rules, regulations, and procedures prescribed by
45 the commission. In the event a student on whose behalf a grant is paid does not enroll in
46 the approved school, the approved school shall make a refund to the commission in
47 accordance with the rules and regulations of the commission.

48 (c) Any person applying for a grant under this subpart or assisting a person applying for
49 a grant under this subpart who knowingly makes or furnishes any false statement or
50 misrepresentation for the purpose of enabling an ineligible student to wrongfully obtain a
51 grant under this subpart shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

52 (d) Each approved school shall be subject to examination by the commission for the sole
53 purpose of determining whether the school has properly certified the cost of attendance,
54 eligibility, and enrollment of students; accurately credited grants paid on behalf of such
55 students; and properly complied with the rules and regulations established pursuant to this
56 subpart; provided, however, that nothing in this subpart shall be construed to interfere with
57 the authority of the school to determine admissibility of students or to control its own
58 curriculum, philosophy, purpose, or administration. In the event it is determined that an
59 approved school knowingly or through error certified an ineligible student to be eligible
60 for a grant under this subpart, the amount of the grant paid to such school pursuant to such
61 certification shall be refunded by such school to the commission. The commission may
62 suspend an approved school from receiving payments under this subpart if it fails to refund
63 any moneys as required by this subpart.

64 (e) The commission shall collect and monitor enrollment and student record data for the
65 needs based financial aid program established pursuant to this subpart. The commission
66 shall annually measure and evaluate the program. Such evaluation shall include, but shall

67 not be limited to, the total number of grants disbursed, the total dollar amount of grants
68 disbursed, the total number of grants disbursed per approved school, and the total dollar
69 amount of grants disbursed per approved school. The Office of Planning and Budget, the
70 Department of Education, and approved schools shall cooperate with and provide data as
71 necessary to the commission to facilitate the provisions of this Code section.

72 (f) The commission, in consultation with the State Board of Cosmetology and Barbers,
73 shall be authorized to define such terms and prescribe such rules, regulations, and
74 procedures as may be reasonable and necessary to carry out the purposes of this subpart.

75 20-3-369.

76 This subpart shall stand repealed on July 1, 2028."

77 **SECTION 2.**

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