

House Bill 163 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives McDonald of the 26<sup>th</sup>, Collins of the 71<sup>st</sup>, Gilliard of the 162<sup>nd</sup>, Powell of the 33<sup>rd</sup>, Barrett of the 24<sup>th</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 provide for student  
3 loan repayment for medical examiners employed by the Division of Forensic Sciences of the  
4 Georgia Bureau of Investigation; to provide for definitions; to provide for eligibility  
5 requirements; to provide for continued eligibility requirements; to provide for student loan  
6 repayment agreements and conditions; to provide for maximum student loan repayment  
7 amounts; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for an appropriations contingency;  
8 to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and 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:

14 "Subpart 7A

15 20-3-460.

16 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

17 (1) 'Eligible applicant' means a person who:

18 (A) Is a legal resident of the State of Georgia as established by rules and regulations  
19 of the authority;

20 (B) Is a physician duly licensed and authorized to practice medicine in this state under  
21 Article 2 of Chapter 34 of Title 43; and

22 (C) Is currently employed as a full-time medical examiner by the Division of Forensic  
23 Sciences of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and has been so employed for at least  
24 one year.

25 (2) 'Recipient' means an eligible applicant who applied for and was approved by the  
26 authority for student loan repayment under this Code section.

27 (3) 'Student loan' means debt incurred by an eligible applicant that is:

28 (A) Evidenced by a promissory note which required the funds received to be used to  
29 pay for the cost of attendance for the undergraduate, graduate, or professional education  
30 of the eligible applicant;

31 (B) Not in default at the time of application for repayment under this Code section; and

32 (C) Not subject to an existing service obligation or to repayment through another  
33 student loan repayment or loan forgiveness program or as a condition of employment.

34 (b) The authority is authorized to approve the applications of eligible applicants submitted  
35 in accordance with rules and regulations established by the authority governing the student  
36 loan repayment application process.

37 (c) The authority is authorized to provide for the repayment of student loans held by  
38 recipients in consideration of the recipient performing services in the form of the practice

39 of medicine as a full-time medical examiner employed by the Division of Forensic  
40 Sciences of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

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

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

48 (e) Each student loan repayment agreement entered into under the authority granted in this  
49 Code section shall be signed by the director of the authority and by the recipient and shall:

50 (1) Provide for repayment of the recipient's student loans in a total amount as the  
51 authority shall determine, but not to exceed a maximum of \$120,000.00 or the total  
52 student loan debt of the recipient, whichever is less, to be paid out over a term of not  
53 more than five years in installments made on an annual basis;

54 (2) Provide that any payment made by the authority under a student loan repayment  
55 agreement shall be made in consideration of services rendered by the recipient practicing  
56 medicine as a full-time medical examiner employed by the Division of Forensic Sciences  
57 of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation; and

58 (3) Require that the recipient shall remain a legal resident of the state as established by  
59 rules and regulations of the authority; maintain licensure as a physician authorized to  
60 practice medicine in this state under Article 2 of Chapter 34 of Title 43; and be employed  
61 as a full-time medical examiner by the Division of Forensic Sciences of the Georgia  
62 Bureau of Investigation at all times during the term of the agreement.

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

65 (g) Student loan repayment for recipients having entered into a student loan repayment  
66 agreement with the authority pursuant to this Code section shall be contingent upon the  
67 appropriation of funds by the General Assembly for the purposes of this Code section in  
68 annual appropriations Acts of the General Assembly."

69

**SECTION 2.**

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