

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

Act 488 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas
2 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007

As Engrossed: S3/5/07

A Bill

SENATE BILL 334

4
5 By: Senator Steele
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8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THAT OUT-OF-STATE TUITION PAID
10 BY THE STATE OF ARKANSAS BE REPAID IF THE STUDENT
11 DOES NOT RETURN TO THE STATE TO PRACTICE; AND FOR
12 OTHER PURPOSES.
13

14 **Subtitle**

15 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THAT OUT-OF-STATE
16 TUITION PAID BY THE STATE OF ARKANSAS BE
17 REPAID IF THE STUDENT DOES NOT RETURN TO
18 THE STATE TO PRACTICE.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 90, Subchapter 1 is amended
24 to add an additional section to read as follows:

25 17-90-111. Loans to optometry students.

26 (a) The Department of Higher Education shall provide loan, from the
27 Higher Education Grants Fund Account, that is in excess of the Southern
28 Regional Education Board grant funds, to any optometry student:

29 (1) Who is bona fide resident of the state,

30 (2) Who is enrolled in an optometry professional program outside
31 the state; and

32 (3) For whom any part of the out-of-state tuition is paid by the
33 State of Arkansas through the Southern Regional Education Board grant funds.

34 (b) A loan authorized by this section:

35 (1) Shall not exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) annually.



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(2) Shall be made:

(A) On an annual basis not to exceed the combined total of four (4) years; and

(B) At a rate of interest determined by the department, but not to exceed four percent (4%).

(3) May be forgiven at the rate of one (1) year's loan for one (1) year's practice in Arkansas;

(4) May be deferred, but for no longer than five (5) years, for the following reasons:

(A) Military service;

(B) Special training; or

(C) Extraordinary circumstances as determined by the department; and

(5) Shall be in addition to Southern Regional Education Board grant funds.

/s/ Steele

APPROVED: 3/26/2007