

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.

1 State of Arkansas
2 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2654

5 By: Representative Adcock
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE A PROGRAM TO FORGIVE STUDENT
10 LOANS TO EMPLOYEES OF THE ARKANSAS REHABILITATION
11 SERVICES FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETAINING
12 REHABILITATION COUNSELORS; AND FOR OTHER
13 PURPOSES.
14

Subtitle

15 AN ACT TO CREATE A PROGRAM TO FORGIVE
16 STUDENT LOANS TO EMPLOYEES OF THE
17 ARKANSAS REHABILITATION SERVICES.
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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 6, Chapter 52, Subchapter 1 is amended
24 to add an additional section to read as follows:

25 6-52-106. Rehabilitation counselor student loan forgiveness program.

26 (a) The General Assembly finds that the Arkansas Rehabilitation
27 Services should be authorized to pay from state and federal funds to assist
28 rehabilitation counselors in repayment of student loans because:

29 (1) A student loan forgiveness program will reduce the costs
30 associated with retaining rehabilitation counselors in comparison to the
31 costs of recruiting and training new rehabilitation counselors;

32 (2) The Arkansas Rehabilitation Services requires existing and
33 new rehabilitation counselors to obtain graduate degrees; and

34 (3) The cost of repaying graduate school costs places an unfair
35 burden on rehabilitation counselors and forces them to leave Arkansas
36 Rehabilitation Services for higher paying positions.



1 (b)(1) To assist rehabilitation counselors in the repayment of student
2 loans, the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services may pay from state and federal
3 funds up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for a rehabilitation counselor
4 whose loan comes due and payable.

5 (2) However, the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services shall pay no
6 more than two thousand dollars (\$2,000) per year per rehabilitation
7 counselor.

8 (3) Moneys paid under subdivision (b)(1) of this section shall
9 be paid directly to the rehabilitation counselor's creditor.

10 (c) A rehabilitation counselor who applies for moneys under this
11 section shall provide:

12 (1) Documentation of loans due and payable; and

13 (2) The name and address of the creditor.

14 (d) Moneys paid under this section shall not exceed the amount of the
15 rehabilitation counselor's loan.

16 (e) Before a rehabilitation counselor may receive assistance under
17 this section the rehabilitation counselor shall have completed the
18 probationary period.

19 (f)(1) A rehabilitation counselor who applied for moneys under this
20 section shall sign a contract to work for the Arkansas Rehabilitation
21 Services for a period of two (2) years for each one (1) year for which the
22 Arkansas Rehabilitation Services pays the creditor towards the rehabilitation
23 counselor's loan repayment.

24 (2) If the rehabilitation counselor voluntarily resigns or is
25 terminated for cause before fulfilling the contract required under
26 subdivision (f)(1) of this section, the rehabilitation counselor shall repay
27 Arkansas Rehabilitation Services for all moneys paid to the rehabilitation
28 counselor's creditor.

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