

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 1207 of the Regular Session**

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

*As Engrossed: S3/26/07*

**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 2646

5 By: Representative Adcock  
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**For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS REHABILITATION  
10 SERVICES FORGIVENESS OF STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM FOR  
11 COUNSELORS EMPLOYED BY ARKANSAS REHABILITATION  
12 SERVICES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
13

**Subtitle**

14 TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS REHABILITATION  
15 SERVICES LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM FOR  
16 COUNSELORS EMPLOYED BY ARKANSAS  
17 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 § 25-30-203 is amended to read as follows:  
24 25-30-203. Powers and duties.

25 (a) The State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities,  
26 through the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services of the Department of Workforce  
27 Education, shall provide the rehabilitation services authorized by this  
28 subchapter to eligible physically or mentally disabled individuals and those  
29 who can benefit from vocational rehabilitation and independent living  
30 services, as determined by the agency to be eligible therefor.

31 (b) In carrying out the purposes of this subchapter, the Arkansas  
32 Rehabilitation Services is authorized, among other things:

33 (1) To be the sole state agency to supervise and administer the  
34 rehabilitation services authorized by this subchapter except such part or  
35 parts as may be administered by a local agency in a political subdivision of



1 the state, in which case the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services shall be the  
2 sole agency to supervise such a local agency in the administration of such  
3 part or parts; ~~and~~

4 (2) To conduct research and compile statistics relative to the  
5 provision of services or the need of services of disabled individuals; and

6 (3) To administer the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services  
7 Forgiveness of Student Loan Program.

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9 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 25, Chapter 30, Subchapter 2 is amended  
10 to add an additional section to read as follows:

11 25-30-206. Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Forgiveness of Student  
12 Loan Program.

13 (a) There is established the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services  
14 Forgiveness of Student Loan Program to assist counselors employed by the  
15 Arkansas Rehabilitation Services with the repayment of student loans.

16 (b)(1) The program shall be administered by the Arkansas  
17 Rehabilitation Services of the Department of Workforce Education.

18 (2) The Arkansas Rehabilitation Services shall promulgate rules  
19 for determining:

20 (A) A counselor's eligibility for a loan under the program  
21 which shall include the following requirements:

22 (i) Satisfactory completion of any probationary  
23 employment period;

24 (ii) Proof of a student loan that remains unpaid,  
25 including the name and address of the creditor; and

26 (iii) An executed employment contract in which the  
27 counselor agrees to:

28 (a) Work for the Arkansas Rehabilitation  
29 Services for a term that equals two (2) years for each year that the program  
30 makes a payment on the counselor's student loan; and

31 (b) Reimburse the program the full amount of  
32 any loan payments made under this program in the event that the counselor  
33 resigns or is terminated for cause before the term of the contract  
34 terminates.

35 (B) The amount of the payment to be made directly to the  
36 counselor's student loan creditor may not exceed:

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- (i) Two thousand dollars (\$2,000) per year; or
- (ii) Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per employee.

SECTION 3. This Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Forgiveness of Student Loan Program expires on June 30, 2009.

/s/ Adcock

APPROVED: 4/5/2007