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	As Engrossed: H3/7/07	
2	86th General Assembly	A Bill	
3	Regular Session, 2007		HOUSE BILL 2549
4			
5	By: Representative L. Smith		
6			
7			
8		For An Act To Be Entitled	
9	AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS CHILD WELFARE		
10	STUDENT LO	DAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM; AND FOR	OTHER
11	PURPOSES.		
12			
13		Subtitle	
14	AN ACT	TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS CHILD	
15	WELFARE	E STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS	
16	PROGRAM	1.	
17			
18			
19	BE IT ENACTED BY THE GEN	ERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF AR	KANSAS:
20			
21	SECTION 1. Arkans	as Code title 6, Chapter 81, is	amended to add an
22	additional subchapter to	read as follows:	
23	SUBCHAPTER 16 - AR	KANSAS CHILD WELFARE STUDENT LOA	N FORGIVENESS
24	PROGRAM.		
25			
26	6-81-1601. Creati	on.	
27	(a) There is crea	ted the Arkansas Child Welfare S	tudent Loan
28	Forgiveness Program to b	e administered by the Department	of Higher Education.
29	(b) The program s	hall provide loan assistance to	eligible students for
30	upper-division undergrad	uate and graduate study.	
31			
32	6-81-1602. Purpos	<u>e.</u>	
33	The primary purpose of the Arkansas Child Welfare Student Loan		
34	Forgiveness Program is t	<u>o:</u>	
35	(1) Attrac	t capable and promising students	to the child welfare
36	profession;		

1	(2) Increase employment and retention of persons who are working		
2	toward or who have received either a baccalaureate degree or a master's		
3	degree in social work, or any human services subject area that qualifies the		
4	person for employment as a family services worker; and		
5	(3) Provide opportunities for persons making mid-career		
6	decisions to enter the child welfare profession.		
7			
8	6-81-1603. Eligibility - Loan forgiveness.		
9	(a) To be eligible for a program loan, a candidate shall:		
10	(1) Be a full-time student at the upper-division undergraduate		
11	or graduate level in a social work program approved by the Council on Social		
12	Work Education leading to either a baccalaureate degree or a master's degree		
13	in social work or an accredited human services degree program;		
14	(2) Have declared an intent to work in child welfare for at		
15	least the number of years for which a forgivable loan is received at the		
16	Division of Children and Family Services or its successor, or with an		
17	eligible leading community-based provider;		
18	(3)(A) If applying for an undergraduate forgivable loan, have		
19	maintained a minimum cumulative grade point average of at least a 2.5 on a		
20	4.0 scale for all undergraduate work.		
21	(B) Renewal applicants for undergraduate loans shall have		
22	maintained a minimum cumulative grade point average of at least a 2.5 on a		
23	4.0 scale for all undergraduate work and have earned at least twelve (12)		
24	semester credits per term, or the equivalent; and		
25	(4)(A) If applying for a graduate forgivable loan, have		
26	maintained an undergraduate cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.0		
27	on a 4.0 scale or have attained a Graduate Record Examination score of at		
28	least one thousand (1,000).		
29	(B) Renewal applicants for graduate loans shall have		
30	maintained a minimum cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.0 on a		
31	4.0 scale for all graduate work and have earned at least nine (9) semester		
32	credits per term, or the equivalent.		
33	(b) An undergraduate forgivable loan may be awarded for two (2)		
34	undergraduate years, not to exceed four thousand dollars (\$4,000) per year.		
35	(c) A graduate forgivable loan may be awarded for two (2) graduate		
36	years not to exceed eight thousand dollars (\$8,000) per year		

1	(d) In addition to meeting criteria specified in subsection (a) of
2	this section, a loan recipient at the graduate level shall:
3	(1) Hold a baccalaureate degree from a school or department of
4	social work at any college or university accredited by the Council on Social
5	Work Education, or hold a degree in a human services field from an accredited
6	college or university; and
7	(2) Not have received an undergraduate forgivable loan as
8	provided for in subsection (b) of this section.
9	(e) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules necessary to
10	administer the program, including without limitation, the following:
11	(1) A forgivable loan must be repaid within ten (10) years after
12	completion of a program of studies;
13	(2) Credit for repayment of an undergraduate or graduate
14	forgivable loan shall be in an amount not to exceed four thousand dollars
15	(\$4,000) in loan principal plus applicable accrued interest for each full
16	year of eligible service in the child welfare profession;
17	(3) Any forgivable loan recipient who fails to work at the
18	Division of Children and Family Services or its successor, or with an
19	eligible leading community-based provider, is responsible for repaying the
20	loan plus accrued interest at eight percent (8%) annually;
21	(4)(A) Forgivable loan recipients may receive loan repayment
22	credit for child welfare service rendered at the division or with an eligible
23	<u>leading community-based provider at any time during the scheduled repayment</u>
24	period.
25	(B) However, such repayment credit shall be applicable
26	only to the current principal and accrued interest balance that remains at
27	the time the repayment credit is earned.
28	(C) No loan recipient shall be reimbursed for previous
29	cash payments of principal and interest.
30	(f) This section shall be implemented only as specifically funded.
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32	/s/ L. Smith
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