

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

As Engrossed: H3/7/07

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2549

5 By: Representative L. Smith
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS CHILD WELFARE
9 STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER
10 PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

12 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS CHILD
13 WELFARE STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS
14 PROGRAM.
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code title 6, Chapter 81, is amended to add an
22 additional subchapter to read as follows:

23 SUBCHAPTER 16 – ARKANSAS CHILD WELFARE STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS
24 PROGRAM.

25
26 6-81-1601. Creation.

27 (a) There is created the Arkansas Child Welfare Student Loan
28 Forgiveness Program to be administered by the Department of Higher Education.

29 (b) The program shall provide loan assistance to eligible students for
30 upper-division undergraduate and graduate study.

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32 6-81-1602. Purpose.

33 The primary purpose of the Arkansas Child Welfare Student Loan
34 Forgiveness Program is to:

35 (1) Attract 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.

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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.

