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 H3/8/07	
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 WEI	LFARE
10	STUDENT	LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM; AND FOR	OTHER
11	PURPOSES	S.	
12			
13		Subtitle	
14	AN A	CT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS CHILD	
15	WELFA	ARE STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS	
16	PROG	RAM.	
17			
18			
19	BE IT ENACTED BY THE G	GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF AR	RKANSAS:
20			
21	SECTION 1. Arka	ansas Code title 6, Chapter 81, is	amended to add an
22	additional subchapter	to read as follows:	
23	SUBCHAPTER 16 -	ARKANSAS CHILD WELFARE STUDENT LOA	AN FORGIVENESS
24	PROGRAM.		
25			
26	6-81-1601. Crea	ation.	
27	(a) There is cr	reated the Arkansas Child Welfare S	Student Loan
28	Forgiveness Program to	b be administered by the Department	of Higher Education.
29	(b) The program	n shall provide loan assistance to	eligible students for
30	upper-division undergr	raduate and graduate study.	
31			
32	6-81-1602. Purp	oose.	
33	The primary purp	oose of the Arkansas Child Welfare	Student Loan
34	Forgiveness Program is	3 to:	
35	<u>(1) Attr</u>	cact capable and promising students	to the child welfare
36	<pre>profession;</pre>		

03-08-2007 09:13 CLR246

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.		

2

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) Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall adopt rules		
10	necessary to administer the program, including without limitation, the		
11	<pre>following:</pre>		
12	(1) A forgivable loan must be repaid within ten (10) years after		
13	completion of a program of studies;		
14	(2) Credit for repayment of an undergraduate or graduate		
15	forgivable loan shall be in an amount not to exceed four thousand dollars		
16	(\$4,000) in loan principal plus applicable accrued interest for each full		
17	year of eligible service in the child welfare profession;		
18	(3) Any forgivable loan recipient who fails to work at the		
19	Division of Children and Family Services or its successor, or with an		
20	eligible leading community-based provider, is responsible for repaying the		
21	loan plus accrued interest at eight percent (8%) annually;		
22	(4)(A) Forgivable loan recipients may receive loan repayment		
23	credit for child welfare service rendered at the division or with an eligible		
24	leading community-based provider at any time during the scheduled repayment		
25	period.		
26	(B) However, such repayment credit shall be applicable		
27	only to the current principal and accrued interest balance that remains at		
28	the time the repayment credit is earned.		
29	(C) No loan recipient shall be reimbursed for previous		
30	cash payments of principal and interest.		
31	(f) This section shall be implemented only as specifically funded.		
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33	/s/ L. Smith		
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