

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 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
36 the state, in which case the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services shall be the



1 sole agency to supervise such a local agency in the administration of such
2 part or parts; ~~and~~

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

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

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

10 25-30-206. Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Forgiveness of Student
11 Loan Program.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 (i) Two thousand dollars (\$2,000) per year; or

(ii) Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per employee.

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