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|---|---|---|
| 1 | State of Arkansas | *As Engrossed: S3/26/07* |
| 2 | 86th General Assembly | **A Bill** |
| 3 | Regular Session, 2007 | HOUSE BILL  2646 |

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5    By:  Representative Adcock

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## 8    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.

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## 14    Subtitle

15           TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS REHABILITATION

16           SERVICES LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM FOR

17           COUNSELORS EMPLOYED BY ARKANSAS

18           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

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

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3          SECTION 3.  *This Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Forgiveness of*

4   *Student Loan Program expires on June 30, 2009.*

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6                                      */s/ Adcock*

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