

House Bill 56

By: Representatives Petrea of the 166th, Hitchens of the 161st, Collins of the 71st, Cameron of the 1st, Lumsden of the 12th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Subpart 7 of Part 3 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of
2 Georgia Annotated, relating to grants to children of law enforcement officers, firefighters,
3 and prison guards, so as to provide for undergraduate full tuition grants to children of law
4 enforcement officers, firefighters, and prison guards who were killed in the line of duty who
5 attend institutions of the University System of Georgia and who meet certain eligibility
6 requirements; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
7 laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Subpart 7 of Part 3 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
11 Annotated, relating to grants to children of law enforcement officers, firefighters, and prison
12 guards, is amended in Code Section 20-3-451, relating to definitions, by revising
13 paragraph (3) and by adding a new paragraph to read as follows:

14 "(3) 'Firefighter' means a person employed, appointed, or regularly enrolled by the state
15 or by any county or municipal fire department whose duties include extinguishing fires
16 or investigating cases of suspected arson.

17 (3.1) 'In the line of duty' means:

18 (A) With respect to a volunteer firefighter, while on duty and when responding to or
19 returning from a fire or other emergency, performing duties during any fire or other
20 emergency, or performing duties intended to protect life and property, including,
21 without limitation, actual participation in a training exercise;

22 (B) With respect to a law enforcement officer or firefighter, while on duty and
23 performing services for and receiving compensation from the law enforcement and fire
24 service agency which employs such officer or firefighter, while off duty when
25 responding to any situation which would save a life or preserve the peace, or while
26 preventing or attempting to prevent the commission of a crime or fire; or

27 (C) With respect to a prison guard, while on duty and performing services for and
28 receiving compensation from the public agency which employs such prison guard."

29 **SECTION 2.**

30 Said subpart is further amended by revising Code Section 20-3-452, relating to annual
31 amount of grants to each eligible student, as follows:

32 "20-3-452.

33 (a) There is granted to each eligible student attending an approved school the sum of
34 \$2,000.00 per academic year. No person shall be eligible to receive grant assistance
35 provided under this subpart in excess of \$8,000.00. Grant assistance to eligible students
36 under this subpart shall be payable during the period of a summer school quarter or
37 semester.

38 (b) An eligible student who is the child, either natural or adopted, of a law enforcement
39 officer, firefighter, or prison guard who was killed in the line of duty and who attends an
40 institution of the University System of Georgia as an undergraduate student is granted a
41 sum per academic year equal to the full amount of tuition to attend such institution for such
42 academic year, so long as the eligible student is under 22 years of age and maintains a

43 cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or greater while attending such institution, which
44 shall be measured at the end of each academic year to determine the student's eligibility for
45 such grant for the following academic year. The grant provided for in this subsection shall
46 be in lieu of and not in addition to the grant provided for in subsection (a) of this Code
47 section.

48 (c) The payment of grants to eligible students under this subpart shall be contingent upon
49 the appropriation of funds by the General Assembly for the purposes of this subpart in
50 annual appropriations Acts of the General Assembly."

51 **SECTION 3.**

52 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.