

As Introduced

133rd General Assembly

Regular Session

2019-2020

H. B. No. 603

Representatives Ingram, Lightbody

**Cosponsors: Representatives West, Galonski, Sweeney, Blair, Brown, Denson,
Crawley, Smith, K., Boyd, Weinstein, Kelly, Sobecki, Crossman**

A BILL

To require the Chancellor of Higher Education to 1
waive interest rates and suspend payments on 2
state student loan programs for up to sixty 3
days, to require the Chancellor to conduct a 4
study to assist institutions of higher education 5
and students during the COVID-19 outbreak, and 6
to declare an emergency. 7

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. (A) In accordance with administrative guidance 8
issued by the United States Secretary of Education on March 20, 9
2020, the Chancellor of Higher Education shall waive interest 10
rates and suspend required payments on all state student loan 11
programs for at least sixty days, including both of the 12
following: 13

(1) OhioMeansJobs Workforce Development Revolving Loan 14
Program established under section 6301.14 of the Revised Code; 15

(2) The Nurse Education Assistance Loan Program 16
established under section 3333.28 of the Revised Code. 17

(B) Not later than ninety days after the effective date of 18
this section, the Chancellor shall conduct a study to determine 19
ways to offer relief and assistance to institutions of higher 20
education and students in higher education during the COVID-19 21
outbreak, and to make legislative recommendations. 22

Section 2. This act is hereby declared to be an emergency 23
measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public 24
peace, health, and safety. The reason for such necessity is to 25
help those affected financially during the pandemic and global 26
health emergency related to COVID-19. Therefore, this act shall 27
go into immediate effect. 28