

House Bill 1522

By: Representatives Harbin of the 113th, Howard of the 118th, Allen of the 117th and Connell of the 115th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 7 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to HOPE scholarships and grants, so as to provide that graduates of
3 certain unaccredited private schools shall be eligible for HOPE scholarships; to provide for
4 an annual report; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Part 7 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
8 relating to HOPE scholarships and grants, is amended in Code Section 20-3-519, relating to
9 definitions, by striking paragraph (6) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

10 "(6) 'Eligible high school' means ~~a public or private secondary school which is:~~

11 (A) A public or private secondary school that is located ~~Located~~ in Georgia and
12 accredited as such by:

13 (i) The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools;

14 (ii) The Georgia Accrediting Commission;

15 (iii) The Georgia Association of Christian Schools;

16 (iv) The Association of Christian Schools International; or

17 (v) The Georgia Private School Accreditation Council; ~~or~~

18 (B) A public or private secondary school that is located ~~Located~~ in another state and
19 accredited by one of the following regional agencies:

20 (i) The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools;

21 (ii) The New England Association of Schools and Colleges;

22 (iii) The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools;

23 (iv) The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools;

24 (v) The Northwestern Association of Schools and Colleges;

25 (vi) The Western Association of Schools and Colleges; or

26 (vii) The Alabama Independent School Association; or

1 (C) A private secondary school located in Georgia that provides credible data
2 indicating that the average score for the senior students of such school on the Scholastic
3 Assessment Test has exceeded the average score for senior students in public schools
4 of the state on the Scholastic Assessment Test for the preceding four consecutive years."

5 **SECTION 2.**

6 Said part is further amended by inserting a new Code section to be designated Code Section
7 20-3-519.13 to read as follows:

8 "20-3-519.13.

9 The Georgia Student Finance Commission shall report annually to the General Assembly
10 regarding the number of students who received a HOPE scholarship after graduating from
11 an unaccredited private school and comparing the scores of students in public and private
12 schools on the Scholastic Assessment Test."

13 **SECTION 3.**

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