

Senate Bill 367

By: Senators Hill of the 4th, Golden of the 8th, Hamrick of the 30th, Marable of the 52nd and Cable of the 27th

AS PASSED SENATE

**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 change eligibility requirements
3 for certain students attending a private postsecondary institution more than five but less than
4 12 quarter or semester hours because of one or more disabilities; to provide for the amount
5 of awards for such students; to revise definitions; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
6 purposes.

7 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Part 7 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
10 relating to HOPE scholarships and grants, is amended in Code Section 20-3-519, relating to
11 definitions, by inserting a new paragraph to be designated paragraph (5.1) to read as follows:

12 "(5.1) 'Disability' is a physical or mental impairment that substantially and permanently
13 limits a major life activity."

14 **SECTION 2.**

15 Said article is further amended in said Code Section 20-3-519, relating to definitions, by
16 striking paragraph (11) and inserting in lieu thereof a new paragraph to read as follows:

17 "(11) 'Full-time student' means a matriculated student attending a postsecondary
18 educational institution and enrolled for the equivalent of at least 12 quarter or semester
19 hours or a student who is taking more than five but less than 12 quarter or semester hours
20 because of one or more disabilities and who is determined to be disabled by the Georgia
21 Student Finance Commission."

22 **SECTION 3.**

1 Said article is further amended in Code Section 20-3-519.3, relating to eligibility
2 requirements for a HOPE scholarship at a private postsecondary institution, by striking
3 subsection (g) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

4 "(g) Subject to the amounts appropriated by the General Assembly and provisions relating
5 to the scholarship shortfall reserve subaccount in Code Section 50-27-13, a HOPE
6 scholarship awarded under this Code section shall be not less than \$3,000.00 for any
7 academic year, except for awards of \$1,500.00 per academic year for students determined
8 to be disabled by the Georgia Student Finance Commission who are taking more than five
9 but less than 12 quarter or semester hours because of one or more disabilities."

10

SECTION 4.

11 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.