

House Bill 341

By: Representatives McBee of the 74<sup>th</sup>, Buck of the 112<sup>th</sup>, Porter of the 119<sup>th</sup> and Gardner of the 42<sup>nd</sup>, Post 3

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-3-519.3 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 HOPE scholarship eligibility requirements for students attending private postsecondary  
3 institutions, so as to make certain students attending such institutions part time eligible for  
4 HOPE scholarships; to provide a minimum amount for scholarships for less than full-time  
5 enrollment; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 20-3-519.3 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to HOPE  
9 scholarship eligibility requirements for students attending private postsecondary institutions,  
10 is amended by striking subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), and (g) and inserting in lieu thereof the  
11 following:

12 "(a) To be eligible for a HOPE scholarship, an entering freshman student seeking an  
13 associate or baccalaureate degree at an eligible private postsecondary institution shall:

14 (1) Meet residency requirements by meeting the requirements to be classified as a legal  
15 resident of Georgia as established by the program regulations promulgated by the Georgia  
16 Student Finance Commission;

17 (2) Meet achievement standards by:

18 (A) Having graduated from an eligible high school while meeting the curriculum  
19 requirements of his or her program of study in 1996 or thereafter and meeting the  
20 requirements set out in the applicable paragraph of subsection (b) of Code Section  
21 20-2-157; or

22 (B) In the case of a student who is otherwise qualified but:

23 (i) Did not graduate from high school or complete a home study program meeting the  
24 requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690, having received the general  
25 educational development (GED) diploma awarded by the Georgia Department of  
26 Technical and Adult Education after June 30, 1993;

1 (ii) Completed a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of  
 2 Code Section 20-2-690 in lieu of graduating from an eligible high school, earning a  
 3 cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at an eligible public postsecondary  
 4 institution at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45  
 5 quarter hours or 30 semester hours, provided that such student shall be eligible to  
 6 receive a retroactive HOPE scholarship for such student's freshman year to be paid  
 7 at the end of the freshman year; or

8 (iii) Graduated from a high school which is not an eligible high school, earning a  
 9 cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at an eligible public postsecondary  
 10 institution at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45  
 11 quarter hours or 30 semester hours, provided that such student shall be eligible to  
 12 receive a retroactive HOPE scholarship for such student's freshman year to be paid  
 13 at the end of the freshman year; and

14 (3) Meet enrollment standards by:

15 (A) Being admitted, enrolled, and classified as an undergraduate student in a  
 16 matriculated status; and

17 (B) Being registered for and attending classes as ~~a full-time~~ at least a half-time  
 18 student for 14 days or more after the last day of the institution's drop and add period.

19 (b) To be eligible for a HOPE scholarship, a sophomore student seeking an associate or  
 20 baccalaureate degree at an eligible private postsecondary institution shall:

21 (1) Meet residency requirements by meeting the requirements to be classified as a legal  
 22 resident of Georgia as established by the program regulations promulgated by the Georgia  
 23 Student Finance Commission;

24 (2) Meet achievement standards by meeting the following criteria:

25 (A) Earning a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at a postsecondary  
 26 institution at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45  
 27 quarter hours or 30 semester hours; and

28 (B) Maintaining satisfactory academic progress in a course of study in accordance with  
 29 the standards and practices used for federal Title IV programs by the postsecondary  
 30 institution in which the student is enrolled; and

31 (3) Meet enrollment standards by:

32 (A) Being admitted, enrolled, and classified as an undergraduate student in a  
 33 matriculated status or, in the case of an otherwise eligible student who is classified as  
 34 a professional level student rather than an undergraduate student, being accepted into  
 35 the professional level program of study prior to receiving a baccalaureate degree; and

36 (B) Being registered for and attending classes as ~~a full-time~~ at least a half-time  
 37 student for 14 days or more after the last day of the institution's drop and add period.

1 (c) To be eligible for a HOPE scholarship, a junior student seeking a baccalaureate degree  
2 at an eligible private postsecondary institution shall:

3 (1) Meet residency requirements by meeting the requirements to be classified as a legal  
4 resident of Georgia as established by the program regulations promulgated by the Georgia  
5 Student Finance Commission;

6 (2) Meet achievement standards by meeting the following criteria:

7 (A) Earning a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at a postsecondary  
8 institution at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 90  
9 quarter hours or 60 semester hours; and

10 (B) Maintaining satisfactory academic progress in a course of study in accordance with  
11 the standards and practices used for federal Title IV programs by the postsecondary  
12 institution in which the student is enrolled; and

13 (3) Meet enrollment standards by:

14 (A) Being admitted, enrolled, and classified as an undergraduate student in a  
15 matriculated status or provided that in the case of an otherwise eligible student who is  
16 classified as a professional level student rather than an undergraduate student, have  
17 been accepted into the professional level program of study prior to receiving a  
18 baccalaureate degree; and

19 (B) Being registered for and attending classes as ~~a full-time~~ at least a half-time student  
20 for 14 days or more after the last day of the institution's drop and add period.

21 (d) To be eligible for a HOPE scholarship, a senior student seeking a baccalaureate degree  
22 at an eligible private postsecondary institution shall:

23 (1) Meet residency requirements by meeting the requirements to be classified as a legal  
24 resident of Georgia as established by the program regulations promulgated by the Georgia  
25 Student Finance Commission which shall be based upon the in-state tuition policy of the  
26 board of regents and the in-state tuition guidelines set by the Department of Technical  
27 and Adult Education;

28 (2) Meet achievement standards by meeting the following criteria:

29 (A) Earning a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at a postsecondary  
30 institution at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 135  
31 quarter hours or 90 semester hours; and

32 (B) Maintaining satisfactory academic progress in a course of study in accordance with  
33 the standards and practices used for federal Title IV programs by the postsecondary  
34 institution in which the student is enrolled; and

35 (3) Meet enrollment standards by:

36 (A) Being admitted, enrolled, and classified as an undergraduate student in a  
37 matriculated status or, in the case of an otherwise eligible student who is classified as

1 a professional level student rather than an undergraduate student, being accepted into  
2 the professional level program of study prior to receiving a baccalaureate degree; and  
3 (B) Being registered for and attending classes as ~~a full-time~~ at least a half-time student  
4 for 14 days or more after the last day of the institution's drop and add period."  
5 "(g) Subject to the amounts appropriated by the General Assembly and provisions relating  
6 to the scholarship shortfall reserve subaccount in Code Section 50-27-13, a HOPE  
7 scholarship awarded under this Code section shall be not less than \$1,500.00 for less than  
8 full-time enrollment and \$3,000.00 for full-time enrollment for any academic year."

9 **SECTION 2.**

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