

House Bill 706

By: Representatives Bannister of the 70th, Post 1, Parsons of the 29th, Birdsong of the 104th and Smith of the 13th, Post 2

**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 an alternative method
3 of calculation of eligibility for HOPE scholarships with regard to achievement standards for
4 certain students; to provide that grades earned during an initial period of enrollment shall not
5 be considered in such calculation in certain circumstances; to provide that semester hours or
6 quarter hours attempted while the student had a HOPE scholarship during a previous period
7 of enrollment shall be considered in calculating the eligibility with regard to the maximum
8 number of semester hours or quarter hours a student may receive a HOPE scholarship; to
9 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 Part 7 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
13 relating to HOPE scholarships and grants, is amended by inserting a new Code section to be
14 designated Code Section 20-3-519.13 to read as follows:

15 "20-3-519.13.

16 (a) This Code section shall apply to a student who:

17 (1) Resumed his or her postsecondary education following a break in enrollment of five
18 years or longer;

19 (2) Has served on active duty with one of the armed forces of the United States;

20 (3) Has earned a two-year degree;

21 (4) Meets residency requirements and enrollment standards for eligibility for a HOPE
22 scholarship in accordance with Code Section 20-3-519.2 for attendance at a public
23 postsecondary institution or Code Section 20-3-519.3 for attendance at a private
24 postsecondary institution; and

25 (5) Is not ineligible for a HOPE scholarship for a reason listed in subsections (1) through
26 (6) of Code Section 20-3-519.1.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this part, at the option of the student, the eligibility of a student subject to this Code section with regard to achievement standards shall be calculated by considering only grades earned since the student resumed his or her postsecondary education, without considering grades earned during his or her initial enrollment in a postsecondary institution.

6 (c) If a student had a HOPE scholarship during his or her previous enrollment in a
7 postsecondary institution, the semester hours or quarter hours attempted by the student
8 during any period when the student had a HOPE scholarship will be considered for
9 purposes of determining eligibility with regard to the total number of semester or quarter
10 hours a student is eligible to receive a HOPE scholarship, as set out in subsection (g) of
11 Code Section 20-3-519.2 for students attending public postsecondary institutions and
12 subsection (f) of Code Section 20-3-519.3 for students attending postsecondary private
13 institutions."

SECTION 2.

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