

Senate Bill 471

By: Senators Hamrick of the 30th, Hill of the 4th, Kemp of the 46th and Williams of the 19th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapters 2 and 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating
2 to elementary and secondary education and to postsecondary education, respectively, so as
3 to change the reporting system and method for determining eligibility for HOPE
4 scholarships, other scholarships, grants, or loan assistance, and certain postsecondary courses
5 and advanced placement courses for students enrolling as freshmen in eligible public or
6 private postsecondary institutions on or after May 1, 2007; to delete obsolete provisions; to
7 provide that residency requirements for HOPE scholarships and HOPE grants shall be
8 established by regulations of the Georgia Student Finance Commission; to provide for loss
9 of eligibility for the HOPE scholarship for any student who does not possess at least a
10 cumulative 3.0 grade point average at the end of each spring quarter or semester; to provide
11 for restoration of such eligibility; to change the amount of certain HOPE scholarships and
12 HOPE grants; to provide that any funds awarded to the recipient of a HOPE scholarship or
13 HOPE grant be in strict accordance with Article I, Section II, Paragraph VIII of the
14 Constitution; to provide for a limitation on quarter hours or semester hours of eligibility for
15 HOPE grants and eligibility for combined HOPE scholarships and grants; to provide for
16 exceptions; to prohibit the award of HOPE grants to any person who possesses a
17 baccalaureate degree or a professional level degree; to provide for related matters; to repeal
18 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

21 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and
22 secondary education, is amended by striking Code Section 20-2-157, relating to the uniform
23 reporting system for specified purposes, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

1 "20-2-157.

2 (a) It is the intent of the General Assembly to establish a uniform reporting system to be
3 used as one of the criteria to determine eligibility of students seeking enrollment in
4 postsecondary courses pursuant to Code Section 20-2-161.1 or seeking educational
5 scholarships, grants, or loan assistance administered by the Georgia Student Finance
6 Commission pursuant to Article 7 of Chapter 3 of this title.

7 (b) Beginning May 1, 2007, each ~~Each~~ school system and private school shall adopt the
8 ~~following~~ reporting system described in this subsection for purposes of identifying and
9 qualifying graduating seniors for the HOPE scholarship program and other programs
10 identified in this Code section:

11 (1) ~~A final grade average of at least an 80 numeric average, provided the student meets~~
12 ~~the college preparatory curriculum requirements~~ Each school system and private school
13 shall transmit, in a manner and at times prescribed by the Georgia Student Finance
14 Commission, an electronic transcript of courses and course grades for each graduating
15 senior that reflects the complete high school academic record of the student, including
16 scores on any state tests required for graduation, and the grading scales used by the
17 school system or private school for the time periods referenced by the transcripts;

18 (2) ~~A final grade average of at least an 85 numeric average, if the student meets the~~
19 ~~career/technical curriculum requirements~~ The Georgia Student Finance Commission shall
20 calculate a grade point average for the purpose of determining eligibility for the HOPE
21 scholarship from these electronic transcripts and shall notify students of their eligibility
22 and high schools as to the eligibility of students. Each grade reported by a school system
23 or private school to the commission for the purpose of calculating the grade point average
24 for HOPE scholarship eligibility shall be the actual grade earned by the student, with no
25 weighting or addition of points by the local school system or private school;

26 (3) ~~For students graduating from high school in 2000 or thereafter, a final grade average~~
27 ~~of at least an 80 numeric average in their core curriculum subjects, provided that the~~
28 ~~student meets the college preparatory curriculum requirements~~ For students otherwise
29 qualified and enrolling as freshmen students in eligible public or private postsecondary
30 institutions for the first time on May 1, 2007, or thereafter, the Georgia Student Finance
31 Commission shall calculate grade point averages for determining eligibility for the HOPE
32 scholarship and other scholarships referenced in this Code section as follows:

33 (A) For students receiving a college preparatory diploma, each grade for a student in
34 attempted coursework in English, mathematics, science, social studies, and foreign
35 language that would, if successfully completed, satisfy a core graduation requirement
36 for the college preparatory curriculum shall be equated to a grade on a 4.0 scale, such

1 that a grade of 'A' = 4.0, a grade of 'B' = 3.0, a grade of 'C' = 2.0, a grade of 'D' = 1.0,
 2 and a grade of 'F' = 0; or

3 (B) For students receiving a career/technical diploma, each grade for a student in
 4 attempted coursework in English, mathematics, science, and social studies that would,
 5 if successfully completed, satisfy a core graduation requirement for the career/technical
 6 curriculum shall be equated to a grade on a 4.0 scale, such that a grade of 'A' = 4.0, a
 7 grade of 'B' = 3.0, a grade of 'C' = 2.0, a grade of 'D' = 1.0, and a grade of 'F' = 0.

8 Grades for coursework that is classified as advanced placement or international
 9 baccalaureate shall be weighted by the Georgia Student Finance Commission in
 10 calculating the overall grade point averages for students, provided that the weighting of
 11 such course grades is uniformly applied to all students in the state taking the specified
 12 coursework. The sum of the equated grades shall be divided by the number of course
 13 grades, adjusted for term length, to yield a grade point average on a 4.0 scale; or

14 ~~(4) For students graduating from high school in 2000 or thereafter, a final grade average~~
 15 ~~of at least an 85 numeric average in their core curriculum subjects if the student meets the~~
 16 ~~career/technical curriculum requirements. Qualification for the HOPE scholarship shall~~
 17 ~~be determined from the grade point average calculated as set out in paragraph (3) of this~~
 18 ~~subsection. Beginning May 1, 2007, students with grade point averages equal to or in~~
 19 ~~excess of 3.0 on the 4.0 scale with a college preparatory diploma shall meet achievement~~
 20 ~~standards for the HOPE scholarship; students receiving a career/technical diploma shall~~
 21 ~~meet achievement standards for the HOPE scholarship with a grade point average equal~~
 22 ~~to or in excess of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale. This paragraph shall apply regardless of when a~~
 23 ~~student graduated from high school and regardless of such student's eligibility status prior~~
 24 ~~to May 1, 2007; and~~

25 (5) Beginning May 1, 2007, only ~~Only~~ the reporting system as indicated in this
 26 subsection shall be used to determine eligibility for all grants, scholarships, or loans to
 27 attend colleges or universities which are administered pursuant to Article 7 of Chapter
 28 3 of this title and eligibility for enrollment in postsecondary courses pursuant to Code
 29 Section 20-2-161.1.

30 (c)(1) Prior to May 1, 2007, each school system shall adopt the following reporting
 31 system for purposes of identifying and qualifying graduating seniors for the HOPE
 32 scholarship program and other programs identified in this Code section:

33 (A) A final grade average of at least an 80 numeric average in their core curriculum
 34 subjects, provided that the student meets the college preparatory curriculum
 35 requirements; or

36 (B) A final grade average of at least an 85 numeric average in their core curriculum
 37 subjects if the student meets the career/technical curriculum requirements.

1 (2) Prior to May 1, 2007, only the reporting system as indicated in this subsection shall
 2 be used to determine eligibility for all grants, scholarships, or loans to attend colleges or
 3 universities which are administered pursuant to Article 7 of Chapter 3 of this title and
 4 eligibility for enrollment in postsecondary courses pursuant to Code Section 20-2-161.1."

5 SECTION 2.

6 Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to postsecondary
 7 education, is amended by striking Code Section 20-3-519, relating to definitions relative to
 8 HOPE scholarships and grants, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

9 "20-3-519.

10 As used in this part, the term:

11 (1) 'Academic year' means a period of time, typically nine months, in which a full-time
 12 student is expected to complete the equivalent of at least two semesters' or three quarters'
 13 academic work.

14 (2) 'Advanced degree' means a master's degree, specialist's degree, or doctorate in
 15 education conferred by an approved postsecondary institution upon completion of a
 16 unified program of study at the graduate level.

17 (3) 'Approved teacher education program' means a program offered by a public or private
 18 postsecondary institution which program has been approved by the Georgia Professional
 19 Standards Commission.

20 (4) 'Certificate' or 'diploma' means a credential, other than a degree, indicating
 21 satisfactory completion of training in a program of study offered by an eligible public
 22 postsecondary institution.

23 (5) 'Critical shortage field' means an area of study or an area of specialized expertise for
 24 which a shortage of qualified teachers or educators exists in Georgia, designated as such
 25 by the Georgia Student Finance Commission.

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

27 (A) Located in Georgia and accredited as such by:

- 28 (i) The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools;
- 29 (ii) The Georgia Accrediting Commission;
- 30 (iii) The Georgia Association of Christian Schools;
- 31 (iv) The Association of Christian Schools International;
- 32 (v) The Georgia Private School Accreditation Council; or
- 33 (vi) The Accrediting Commission for Independent Study; or

34 (B) Located in another state and accredited by one of the following regional agencies:

- 35 (i) The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools;

- 1 (ii) The New England Association of Schools and Colleges;
2 (iii) The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools;
3 (iv) The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools;
4 (v) The Northwestern Association of Schools and Colleges;
5 (vi) The Western Association of Schools and Colleges; or
6 (vii) The Alabama Independent School Association.
- 7 (7) 'Eligible postsecondary institution' means a school which is:
8 (A) A unit of the University System of Georgia;
9 (B) A branch of the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education or an
10 affiliated institution which is controlled by a local board of education;
11 (C) A private independent nonprofit postsecondary institution eligible for tuition
12 equalization grants in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (A) of paragraph
13 (2) of Code Section 20-3-411;
14 (D) A private proprietary postsecondary institution eligible for tuition equalization
15 grants in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (C) of paragraph (2) of Code
16 Section 20-3-411.
- 17 (8) 'Eligible private postsecondary institution' means an eligible postsecondary institution
18 which meets the criteria set out in subparagraph (C) of paragraph (7) of this Code section.
- 19 (9) 'Eligible public postsecondary institution' means an eligible postsecondary institution
20 which meets the criteria set out in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (7) of this Code
21 section.
- 22 (10) 'Freshman student' means a student at a postsecondary institution who has attempted
23 less than 46 quarter hours or less than 31 semester hours.
- 24 (11) 'Full-time student' means a matriculated student attending a postsecondary
25 educational institution and enrolled for the equivalent of at least 12 quarter or semester
26 hours.
- 27 (12) 'Grade point average' means the numbered grade average calculated using a 4.0
28 scale.
- 29 (13) 'HOPE grant' means a Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally grant for education
30 awarded in accordance with Code Section 20-3-519.4 or 20-3-519.5.
- 31 (14) 'HOPE scholarship' means a Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally scholarship
32 for education awarded in accordance with Code ~~Sections~~ Section 20-3-519.2 or
33 20-3-519.3.
- 34 (15) 'HOPE teacher's scholarship' means a Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally
35 scholarship for education awarded in accordance with Code Section 20-3-519.8.

1 (16) 'HOPE GED voucher' means a Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally general
 2 educational development (GED) diploma voucher for postsecondary education awarded
 3 in accordance with Code Section 20-3-519.6.

4 (17) 'Junior student' means a student at a postsecondary institution who has attempted
 5 at least 91 quarter hours but less than 136 quarter hours or at least 61 semester hours but
 6 less than 91 semester hours.

7 ~~(18) 'Mandatory fees' means fees approved by the Georgia Student Finance Commission~~
 8 ~~that are charged by a postsecondary institution to every student enrolled in that~~
 9 ~~institution, regardless of the student's program of study.~~

10 ~~(19)~~(18) 'Matriculated status' means being recognized as a student in a defined program
 11 of study leading to a degree, diploma, or certificate at a postsecondary institution.

12 ~~(20)~~(19) 'PROMISE teacher's scholarship' means a scholarship awarded in accordance
 13 with Code Section 20-3-519.7.

14 ~~(21)~~(20) 'Quarter hours' includes each quarter hour attempted, whether remedial or for
 15 credit toward a degree, but shall not include any quarter hour attempted or completed
 16 before graduating from high school or earning a general educational development (GED)
 17 diploma.

18 ~~(22)~~(21) 'Semester hours' includes each semester hour attempted, whether remedial or
 19 for credit toward a degree, but shall not include any semester hour attempted before
 20 graduating from high school or earning a general educational development (GED)
 21 diploma.

22 ~~(23)~~(22) 'Senior student' means a student at a postsecondary institution who has
 23 attempted at least 136 quarter hours but less than 191 quarter hours or at least 91 semester
 24 hours but less than 128 semester hours.

25 ~~(24)~~(23) 'Sophomore student' means a student at a postsecondary institution who has
 26 attempted at least 46 quarter hours but less than 91 quarter hours or at least 31 semester
 27 hours but less than 61 semester hours.

28 ~~(25)~~(24) 'Title IV' means Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, 20
 29 U.S.C.A. Section 1070, et seq."

30 SECTION 3.

31 Said chapter is further amended by striking Code Section 20-3-519.2 relating to eligibility
 32 requirements for HOPE scholarships at public postsecondary institutions, and inserting in
 33 lieu thereof the following:

34 "20-3-519.2.

35 (a) To be eligible for a HOPE scholarship, an entering freshman student seeking an
 36 associate or baccalaureate degree at an eligible public postsecondary institution shall:

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

6 (2) Meet achievement standards by:

7 (A) Having graduated from an eligible high school while meeting the curriculum
 8 requirements of his or her program of study in 1993 or thereafter and meeting the
 9 requirements set out in the applicable subsection and paragraph of ~~subsection (b) of~~
 10 Code Section 20-2-157; or

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

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

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

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

29 (3) Meet enrollment standards by being admitted, enrolled, and classified as an
 30 undergraduate student in a matriculated status.

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

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

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

2 (A) Earning a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at a postsecondary
3 institution at the end of the spring quarter or semester ~~in which the student has~~
4 ~~attempted 45 quarter hours or 30 semester hours~~; and

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

8 (3) Meet enrollment standards by being admitted, enrolled, and classified as an
9 undergraduate student in a matriculated status or, in the case of an otherwise eligible
10 student who is classified as a professional level student rather than an undergraduate
11 student, being accepted into the professional level program of study prior to receiving a
12 baccalaureate degree.

13 (c) To be eligible for a HOPE scholarship, a junior student seeking a baccalaureate degree
14 at a public postsecondary institution shall:

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

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

21 (A) Earning a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at a postsecondary
22 institution at the end of the spring quarter or semester ~~in which the student has~~
23 ~~attempted 90 quarter hours or 60 semester hours~~; and

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

27 (3) Meet enrollment standards by being admitted, enrolled, and classified as an
28 undergraduate student in a matriculated status or, in the case of an otherwise eligible
29 student who is classified as a professional level student rather than an undergraduate
30 student, being accepted into the professional level program of study prior to receiving a
31 baccalaureate degree.

32 (d) To be eligible for a HOPE scholarship, a senior student seeking a baccalaureate degree
33 at a public postsecondary institution shall:

34 (1) Meet residency requirements by meeting the requirements to be classified as a legal
35 resident of Georgia as established by the program regulations promulgated by the Georgia
36 Student Finance Commission ~~which shall be based upon the in-state tuition policy of the~~

1 ~~board of regents and the in-state tuition guidelines set by the Department of Technical~~
2 ~~and Adult Education;~~

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

4 (A) Earning a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at a postsecondary
5 institution at the end of the spring quarter or semester ~~in which the student has~~
6 ~~attempted 135 quarter hours or 90 semester hours;~~ and

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

10 (3) Meet enrollment standards by being admitted, enrolled, and classified as an
11 undergraduate student in a matriculated status or, in the case of an otherwise eligible
12 student who is classified as a professional level student rather than an undergraduate
13 student, being accepted into the professional level program of study prior to receiving a
14 baccalaureate degree.

15 (e) ~~A student who fails to maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at the~~
16 ~~end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45 quarter hours or 30~~
17 ~~semester hours may attend the next 45 quarter or 30 semester hours without a HOPE~~
18 ~~scholarship. An otherwise eligible student who regains a cumulative grade point average~~
19 ~~of at least 3.0 at the end of a quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 90~~
20 ~~quarter hours or 135 quarter hours or 60 semester hours or 90 semester hours may requalify~~
21 ~~for a HOPE scholarship. In addition to other requirements, and regardless of quarter hours~~
22 ~~or semester hours of coursework attempted, a student who fails to possess a cumulative~~
23 ~~grade point average of at least 3.0 at the end of each spring quarter or semester shall be~~
24 ~~ineligible for a HOPE scholarship until such time as the student regains a cumulative grade~~
25 ~~point average of at least 3.0 at the end of any spring checkpoint, at which time the student~~
26 ~~will regain eligibility if other terms and conditions in this Code section are also satisfied.~~

27 (f) For students eligible for a HOPE scholarship under this Code section, no minimum
28 number of hours of enrollment is required.

29 (g)(1) Except as set out in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a student may receive the
30 HOPE scholarship until the first of these events:

31 (A) The student has earned a baccalaureate degree; or

32 (B) The student has attempted at any postsecondary institution a total of 190 quarter
33 hours or 127 semester hours.

34 (2) A student enrolled in an undergraduate degree program designed to be more than 190
35 quarter hours or 127 semester hours in length is eligible to receive the HOPE scholarship
36 for the lesser of:

37 (A) A total of 225 attempted quarter hours or 150 attempted semester hours; or

1 (B) The number of hours required for graduation if the student has a 3.0 cumulative
 2 grade point average of at least 3.0 after the term in which the student attempted 190
 3 quarter hours or 127 semester hours.

4 (h) 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 include ~~tuition, approved mandatory~~
 7 ~~fees, and a book allowance not to exceed \$100.00 per quarter or \$150.00 per semester~~ an
 8 amount for tuition up to but not to exceed the actual amount charged the student.

9 (i) Any funds awarded to a recipient of a HOPE scholarship under this Code section shall
 10 be in strict accordance with the provisions and intent of Article I, Section II, Paragraph
 11 VIII(c) of the Constitution and only for such educational programs and purposes as clearly
 12 provided for in such subparagraph."

13 SECTION 4.

14 Said chapter is further amended by striking Code Section 20-3-519.3, relating to eligibility
 15 requirements for HOPE scholarships at private postsecondary institutions, and inserting in
 16 lieu thereof the following:

17 "20-3-519.3.

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

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

23 (2) Meet achievement standards by:

24 (A) Having graduated from an eligible high school while meeting the curriculum
 25 requirements of his or her program of study in 1996 or thereafter and meeting the
 26 requirements set out in the applicable paragraph of subsection (b) of Code Section
 27 20-2-157; or

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

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

33 (ii) Completed a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of
 34 Code Section 20-2-690 in lieu of graduating from an eligible high school, earning a
 35 cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at an eligible public postsecondary
 36 institution at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45

1 quarter hours or 30 semester hours, provided that such student shall be eligible to
 2 receive a retroactive HOPE scholarship for such student's freshman year to be paid
 3 at the end of the freshman year; or

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

10 (3) Meet enrollment standards by:

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

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

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

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

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

21 (A) Earning a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at a postsecondary
 22 institution at the end of the spring quarter or semester ~~in which the student has~~
 23 ~~attempted 45 quarter hours or 30 semester hours; and~~

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

27 (3) Meet enrollment standards by:

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

32 (B) Being registered for and attending classes as a full-time student for 14 days or
 33 more after the last day of the institution's drop and add period.

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

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

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

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

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

11 (3) Meet enrollment standards by:

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

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

19 (d) To be eligible for a HOPE scholarship, a senior student seeking a baccalaureate degree
 20 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 ~~which shall be based upon the in-state tuition policy of the~~
 24 ~~board of regents and the in-state tuition guidelines set by the Department of Technical~~
 25 ~~and Adult Education~~;

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

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

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

33 (3) Meet enrollment standards by:

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

1 (B) Being registered for and attending classes as a full-time student for 14 days or
2 more after the last day of the institution's drop and add period.

3 ~~(e) An otherwise eligible student who fails to maintain a cumulative grade point average~~
4 ~~of at least 3.0 at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45~~
5 ~~quarter hours or 30 semester hours may attend the next 45 quarter hours or 30 semester~~
6 ~~hours without a HOPE scholarship. A student who regains a cumulative grade point~~
7 ~~average of at least 3.0 at end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted~~
8 ~~90 quarter hours or 60 semester hours may requalify for a HOPE scholarship. A student~~
9 ~~who regains a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at the end of the quarter or~~
10 ~~semester in which the student has attempted 135 quarter hours or 90 semester hours may~~
11 ~~requalify for a HOPE scholarship. In addition to other requirements, and regardless of~~
12 ~~quarter or semester hours of coursework attempted, a student who fails to possess a~~
13 ~~cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at the end of each spring quarter or semester~~
14 ~~shall be ineligible for a HOPE scholarship until such time as the student regains a~~
15 ~~cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at the end of any spring checkpoint, at which~~
16 ~~time the student will regain eligibility if other terms and conditions in this Code section are~~
17 ~~also satisfied.~~

18 (f)(1) Except as set out in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a student may receive a
19 HOPE scholarship until the first of these events:

20 (A) The student has earned a baccalaureate degree; or

21 (B) The student has attempted at any postsecondary institution a total of 190 quarter
22 hours or 127 semester hours.

23 (2) A student enrolled in an undergraduate degree program designed to be more than 190
24 quarter hours or 127 semester hours in length is eligible to receive a HOPE scholarship
25 for the lesser of:

26 (A) A total of 225 attempted quarter hours or 150 attempted semester hours; or

27 (B) The number of hours required for graduation if the student has a cumulative grade
28 point average of at least 3.0 after the term in which the student attempted 190 quarter
29 hours or 127 semester hours.

30 (g) Subject to the amounts appropriated by the General Assembly and provisions relating
31 to the scholarship shortfall reserve subaccount in Code Section 50-27-13, a HOPE
32 scholarship awarded under this Code section shall be not less than \$3,000.00 for any
33 academic year."

1 (c) Subject to the provisions of subsection (e) of this Code section, an An eligible student
2 may receive HOPE grants for all course work required by the institution for programs of
3 study leading to a certificate or diploma, including remedial or developmental studies.

4 (d) 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 grant
6 awarded under this Code section shall include ~~tuition, approved mandatory fees, and a book~~
7 ~~allowance not to exceed \$100.00 per quarter or \$150.00 per semester~~ an amount for tuition
8 up to but not to exceed the actual amount charged the student.

9 (e) Any funds awarded to a recipient of a HOPE grant under this Code section shall be in
10 strict accordance with the provisions and intent of Article I, Section II, Paragraph VIII(c)
11 of the Constitution and only for such educational programs and purposes as clearly
12 provided for in such subparagraph.

13 (f) No student may receive HOPE grants for more than 95 quarter hours or 63 semester
14 hours of attempted coursework. No student may receive more than a cumulative total of
15 190 quarter hours or 127 semester hours of combined HOPE scholarships and grants,
16 unless in accordance with Code Sections 20-3-519.2 and 20-3-519.3.

17 (g) No person who possesses a baccalaureate degree or a professional level degree may
18 receive a HOPE grant."

19 SECTION 7.

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