

The Senate Higher Education Committee offered the following substitute to HB 1325:

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 revise certain definitions; to
 7 delete obsolete provisions; to provide that residency requirements for HOPE scholarships and
 8 HOPE grants shall be established by regulations of the Georgia Student Finance
 9 Commission; to provide for loss of eligibility for the HOPE scholarship for any student who
 10 does not possess at least a cumulative 3.0 grade point average at the end of each spring
 11 quarter or semester; to provide for restoration of such eligibility; to provide for changes to
 12 the amount of HOPE scholarships and grants under certain conditions; to provide for a
 13 limitation on quarter hours or semester hours of eligibility for HOPE grants and eligibility
 14 for combined HOPE scholarships and grants; to prohibit the award of HOPE grants to any
 15 person who possesses a bachelor's degree or higher; to provide for exceptions; to amend
 16 Article 1 of Chapter 27 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
 17 general provisions relative to lottery for education, so as to change certain provisions relating
 18 to the scholarship shortfall reserve subaccount; to provide for changes to the amount of a
 19 HOPE scholarship or grant under certain conditions; to create the Lottery for Education
 20 Legislative Oversight Committee; to provide for membership and duties of such oversight
 21 committee; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

23 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and
 24 secondary education, is amended by striking Code Section 20-2-157, relating to the uniform
 25 reporting system for specified purposes, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:
 26

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, the grading scales used by the school
17 system or private school for the time periods referenced by the transcripts, and any other
18 pertinent information as determined by the Georgia Student Finance Commission. Each
19 grade reported by a school system or private school to the commission for the purpose
20 of calculating the grade point average for HOPE scholarship eligibility shall be the actual
21 grade earned by the student, with no weighting or addition of points by the local school
22 system or private school;

23 (2) ~~A final grade average of at least an 85 numeric average, if the student meets the~~
24 ~~career/technical curriculum requirements~~ The Georgia Student Finance Commission shall
25 calculate a grade point average for the purpose of determining eligibility for the HOPE
26 scholarship from these electronic transcripts and shall notify students of their eligibility
27 and high schools as to the eligibility of students;

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

35 (A) For students receiving a college preparatory diploma, each grade for a student in
36 attempted coursework in English, mathematics, science, social studies, and foreign
37 language that would, if successfully completed, satisfy a core graduation requirement

1 for the college preparatory curriculum shall be equated to a grade on a 4.0 scale, such
 2 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,
 3 and a grade of 'F' = 0; or

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 SECTION 2.

8 Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to postsecondary
 9 education, is amended by striking paragraphs (13), (21), and (22) of Code Section 20-3-519,
 10 relating to definitions, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

11 "(13) 'HOPE grant' means a Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally grant for
 12 education awarded in accordance with Code Section ~~20-3-519.4~~ or 20-3-519.5."

13 "(21) 'Quarter hours' includes each quarter hour attempted, whether remedial or for credit
 14 toward a degree, but shall not include any quarter hour attempted or completed before
 15 graduating from high school or earning a general educational development (GED)
 16 diploma. This term shall not be construed to exclude any major of study or courses
 17 offered by an eligible postsecondary institution for purposes of HOPE scholarships under
 18 this part.

19 (22) 'Semester hours' includes each semester hour attempted, whether remedial or for
 20 credit toward a degree, but shall not include any semester hour attempted before
 21 graduating from high school or earning a general educational development (GED)
 22 diploma. This term shall not be construed to exclude any major of study or courses
 23 offered by an eligible postsecondary institution for purposes of HOPE scholarships under
 24 this part."

25 SECTION 3.

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

29 "20-3-519.2.

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

32 (1) Meet residency requirements by meeting the requirements to be classified as a legal
 33 resident of Georgia as established by the program regulations promulgated by the Georgia
 34 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:

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

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

9 (i) Did not graduate from high school or complete a home study program meeting the
 10 requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690, having received the general
 11 educational development (GED) diploma awarded by the Georgia Department of
 12 Technical and Adult Education after June 30, 1993, provided that such student shall
 13 only be eligible for a HOPE scholarship pursuant to subsection (e) of the Code
 14 section;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 (c) To be eligible for a HOPE scholarship, a junior student seeking a baccalaureate degree
13 at a public 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 ~~which shall be based upon the in-state tuition policy of the~~
17 ~~board of regents and the in-state tuition guidelines set by the Department of Technical~~
18 ~~and Adult Education;~~

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

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

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

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

31 (d) To be eligible for a HOPE scholarship, a senior student seeking a baccalaureate degree
32 at a 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 quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 135
4 quarter hours or 90 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 (e)(1) A student who fails to maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0
14 at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45 quarter hours
15 or 30 semester hours may attend the next 45 quarter or 30 semester hours without a
16 HOPE scholarship. An otherwise eligible student who regains a cumulative grade point
17 average of at least 3.0 at the end of a quarter or semester in which the student has
18 attempted 90 quarter hours or 135 quarter hours or 60 semester hours or 90 semester
19 hours may requalify for a HOPE scholarship.

20 (2) In addition to other requirements, and regardless of quarter hours or semester hours
21 of coursework attempted, a student who fails to possess a cumulative grade point average
22 of at least 3.0 at the end of each spring quarter or semester shall be ineligible for a HOPE
23 scholarship until such time as the student regains or attains a cumulative grade point
24 average of at least 3.0 at one of the 45, 90, or 135 quarter hour grade point average
25 checkpoints or at one of the 30, 60, or 90 semester hour grade point average checkpoints,
26 at which time the student will regain or attain eligibility if other terms and conditions in
27 this Code section are also satisfied.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 (h) Subject to the amounts appropriated by the General Assembly and provisions relating
6 to the ~~scholarship shortfall reserve subaccount~~ Lottery for Education Account in Code
7 Section 50-27-13, a HOPE scholarship awarded under this Code section shall include
8 tuition, approved mandatory fees, and a book allowance not to exceed \$100.00 per quarter
9 or \$150.00 per semester."

10 SECTION 4.

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

14 "20-3-519.3.

15 (a) To be eligible for a HOPE scholarship, an entering freshman student seeking an
16 associate or 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:

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

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

26 (i) Did not graduate from high school or complete a home study program meeting the
27 requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690, having received the general
28 educational development (GED) diploma awarded by the Georgia Department of
29 Technical and Adult Education after June 30, 1993, provided that such student shall
30 only be eligible for a HOPE scholarship pursuant to subsection (e) of this Code
31 section;

32 (ii) Completed a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of
33 Code Section 20-2-690 in lieu of graduating from an eligible high school, earning a
34 cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at an eligible public postsecondary
35 institution at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45
36 quarter hours or 30 semester hours, provided that such student shall be eligible to

1 receive a retroactive HOPE scholarship for such student's freshman year to be paid
2 at the end of the freshman year; or

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

9 (3) Meet enrollment standards by:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (3) Meet enrollment standards by:

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

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

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

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

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 quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 90
4 quarter hours or 60 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:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 (3) Meet enrollment standards by:

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

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

1 (e)(1) An otherwise eligible student who fails to maintain a cumulative grade point
 2 average of at least 3.0 at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has
 3 attempted 45 quarter hours or 30 semester hours may attend the next 45 quarter hours or
 4 30 semester hours without a HOPE scholarship. A student who regains a cumulative
 5 grade point average of at least 3.0 at end of the quarter or semester in which the student
 6 has attempted 90 quarter hours or 60 semester hours may requalify for a HOPE
 7 scholarship. A student who regains a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at the
 8 end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 135 quarter hours or 90
 9 semester hours may requalify for a HOPE scholarship.

10 (2) In addition to other requirements, and regardless of quarter or semester hours of
 11 coursework attempted, a student who fails to possess a cumulative grade point average
 12 of at least 3.0 at the end of each spring quarter or semester shall be ineligible for a HOPE
 13 scholarship until such time as the student regains or attains a cumulative grade point
 14 average of at least 3.0 at one of the 45, 90, or 135 quarter hour grade point average
 15 checkpoints or at one of the 30, 60, or 90 semester hour grade point average checkpoints,
 16 at which time the student will regain or attain eligibility if other terms and conditions in
 17 this Code section are 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~~ Lottery for Education Account in Code
 6 Section 50-27-13, a HOPE grant awarded under this Code section shall include tuition,
 7 approved mandatory fees, and a book allowance not to exceed \$100.00 per quarter or
 8 \$150.00 per semester.

9 (e) No student may receive HOPE grants for more than 95 quarter hours or 63 semester
 10 hours of attempted coursework. No student may receive more than a cumulative total of
 11 190 quarter hours or 127 semester hours of combined HOPE scholarships and grants,
 12 unless in accordance with Code Sections 20-3-519.2 and 20-3-519.3.

13 (f) No person who possesses a bachelor's, master's, or doctorate degree may receive a
 14 HOPE grant."

15 SECTION 7.

16 Article 1 of Chapter 27 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
 17 general provisions relative to lottery for education, is amended in Code Section 50-27-13,
 18 relating to disposition of lottery proceeds, budget report by the Governor, appropriations by
 19 the General Assembly, and the shortfall reserve subaccount, by striking paragraph (3) of
 20 subsection (b) and inserting a new paragraph (3) and by inserting a new paragraph (5) of
 21 subsection (b) to read as follows:

22 "(3) A scholarship shortfall reserve subaccount shall be maintained within the Lottery
 23 for Education Account. An amount equal to 10 percent of the total amount of lottery
 24 proceeds disbursed during the preceding fiscal year in the form of scholarships and grants
 25 for higher education shall be deposited from lottery proceeds each year until such amount
 26 equals 50 percent of such sum. Thereafter, only an amount necessary to maintain the
 27 scholarship shortfall reserve subaccount in an amount equal to 50 percent of the amount
 28 of lottery proceeds disbursed during the preceding fiscal year shall be deposited into the
 29 subaccount. If the net proceeds paid into the Lottery for Education Account in any year
 30 are not sufficient to meet the amount appropriated for higher education scholarships, the
 31 shortfall reserve subaccount may be drawn upon to meet the deficiency. In the event it
 32 becomes necessary to draw from the reserve subaccount in any fiscal year, the
 33 scholarship program shall be reviewed and shall be reduced to accommodate available
 34 lottery proceeds, exclusive of the scholarship shortfall reserve subaccount, through such
 35 methods as reducing the family income cap qualification, reducing or eliminating grants

1 for student fees and books, paying an amount up to but not to exceed actual tuition, and
 2 reducing the academic years funded."

3 "(5)(A) For purposes of this subsection, the term 'year-end balance' shall mean the
 4 amount, as determined by the state auditor, of unexpended and uncommitted funds in
 5 the Lottery for Education Account at the end of a fiscal year, which shall not include
 6 amounts contained in the subaccounts provided for in paragraphs (3) and (4) of this
 7 subsection.

8 (B) In the event that the year-end balance of a fiscal year is less than the year-end
 9 balance of the fiscal year immediately preceding, then all scholarships and grants for
 10 mandatory fees under Part 7 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 shall not exceed
 11 \$500.00 per year beginning in the subsequent fiscal year and thereafter. In the event
 12 that the year-end balance of any subsequent fiscal year is less than the year-end balance
 13 of the fiscal year immediately preceding, then all scholarships and grants for mandatory
 14 fees under Part 7 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 shall be eliminated beginning in
 15 the next fiscal year and thereafter. In the event that the year-end balance of any further
 16 subsequent fiscal year is less than the year-end balance of the fiscal year immediately
 17 preceding, then all scholarships and grants for book allowances under Part 7 of Article
 18 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 shall be eliminated beginning in the next fiscal year and
 19 thereafter."

20 SECTION 8.

21 Said article is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

22 "50-27-35.

23 (a) There is created as a joint committee of the General Assembly the Lottery for
 24 Education Legislative Oversight Committee, to be composed of 14 members as follows:
 25 three members from each of the following committees, to be appointed by the respective
 26 chairperson of the committee: House Committee on Higher Education, Senate Higher
 27 Education Committee, House Committee on Education, and Senate Education Committee;
 28 and the two cochairpersons of the Georgia Lottery Corporation Legislative Oversight
 29 Committee. The members of the committee shall select a chairperson from among their
 30 membership who shall serve as chairperson of the oversight committee. The oversight
 31 committee shall be authorized to inquire into and review all aspects of the Lottery for
 32 Education Account and programs conducted with funds from the Lottery for Education
 33 Account, as well as review and evaluate the conditions, needs, and issues of programs
 34 conducted with funds from the Lottery for Education Account. The oversight committee
 35 may conduct any independent audit or investigation of the commission it deems necessary.
 36 The committee shall meet at least twice annually, which shall include a meeting in January

1 no later than the second Monday in January and a second meeting no earlier than July 5 and
2 no later than August 1. The committee may have additional meetings at the call of the
3 chairperson.

4 (b) The committee may request and receive reports from any appropriate agency in order
5 to conduct activities pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section."

6 **SECTION 9.**

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