

House Bill 1325 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives McBee of the 74th, Purcell of the 122nd, Greene of the 134th, Holmes of the 48th, Post 1, and Cummings 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 add public and private schools
7 accredited by the Southern Association of Independent Schools to the definition of eligible
8 high schools for the purposes of the HOPE program; to delete an obsolete reference; to revise
9 and add definitions; to provide for loss of eligibility for the HOPE scholarship for any
10 student who does not possess at least a cumulative 3.0 grade point average at the end of each
11 spring quarter or semester; to provide for loss of eligibility for the HOPE scholarship for any
12 part-time students under certain conditions; to provide for restoration of such eligibility; to
13 provide for courses taken as postsecondary options to be included in HOPE hour limits; to
14 provide for a set amount for mandatory fees for HOPE scholarships and HOPE grants; to
15 provide for changes to the amount of HOPE scholarships at private institutions for students
16 enrolled less than full-time; to provide for a limitation on quarter hours or semester hours of
17 eligibility for HOPE grants and eligibility for combined HOPE scholarships and grants; to
18 provide for exceptions; to create the HOPE Scholarship/Pre-K Legislative Oversight
19 Committee; to provide for membership and duties of such oversight committee; to provide
20 that employees of certain organizations are considered residents of Georgia for purposes of
21 the HOPE program; to amend Code Section 50-27-13 of the Official Code of Georgia
22 Annotated, relating to disposition of lottery proceeds, budget report by Governor,
23 appropriations by General Assembly, and shortfall reserve subaccount, so as to provide for
24 changes to the amount of book allowances and fees for a HOPE scholarship or grant under
25 certain conditions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
26 purposes.

27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

1 Commission shall calculate grade point averages for determining eligibility for the HOPE
 2 scholarship and other scholarships referenced in this Code section as follows:

3 (A) For students receiving a college preparatory diploma, each grade for a student in
 4 attempted coursework in English, mathematics, science, social studies, and foreign
 5 language that would, if successfully completed, satisfy a core graduation requirement
 6 for the college preparatory curriculum shall be equated to a grade on a 4.0 scale, such
 7 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,
 8 and a grade of 'F' = 0; or

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

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

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

31 (5) Beginning May 1, 2007, only ~~Only~~ the reporting system as indicated in this
 32 subsection shall be used to determine eligibility for all grants, scholarships, or loans to
 33 attend colleges or universities which are administered pursuant to Article 7 of Chapter
 34 3 of this title and eligibility for enrollment in postsecondary courses pursuant to Code
 35 Section 20-2-161.1.

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

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

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

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

13 SECTION 2.

14 Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to postsecondary
 15 education, is amended by striking paragraphs (6), (11), (13), (21), and (22) of Code Section
 16 20-3-519, relating to definitions relative to HOPE scholarships and grants, and inserting in
 17 lieu thereof the following:

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

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

- 20 (i) The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools;
- 21 (ii) The Georgia Accrediting Commission;
- 22 (iii) The Georgia Association of Christian Schools;
- 23 (iv) The Association of Christian Schools International;
- 24 (v) The Georgia Private School Accreditation Council; or
- 25 (vi) The Accrediting Commission for Independent Study; or
- 26 (vii) The Southern Association of Independent Schools; or

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

- 28 (i) The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools;
- 29 (ii) The New England Association of Schools and Colleges;
- 30 (iii) The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools;
- 31 (iv) The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools;
- 32 (v) The Northwestern Association of Schools and Colleges;
- 33 (vi) The Western Association of Schools and Colleges; or
- 34 (vii) The Alabama Independent School Association; or
- 35 (viii) The Southern Association of Independent Schools."

1 "(11) 'Full-time student' means a matriculated student attending a postsecondary
 2 educational institution and enrolled for ~~the equivalent of at least 12 quarter or semester~~
 3 hours or the equivalent in any given semester or quarter."

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

6 "(21) 'Quarter hours' includes each quarter hour attempted, whether remedial or for credit
 7 toward a degree, ~~but shall not include any quarter hour attempted or completed before~~
 8 ~~graduating from high school or earning a general educational development (GED)~~
 9 certificate, or diploma.

10 (22) 'Semester hours' includes each semester hour attempted, whether remedial or for
 11 credit toward a degree, ~~but shall not include any semester hour attempted before~~
 12 ~~graduating from high school or earning a general educational development (GED)~~
 13 certificate, or diploma."

14 SECTION 3.

15 Said chapter is further amended by adding new paragraphs (12.1) and (19.1) to Code Section
 16 20-3-519, relating to definitions relative to HOPE scholarships and grants, to read as follows:

17 "(12.1) 'Half-time student' means a matriculated student attending a postsecondary
 18 educational institution and enrolled for six to 11 semester hours or the equivalent in any
 19 given semester or quarter."

20 "(19.1) 'Part-time student' means a matriculated student attending a postsecondary
 21 educational institution and enrolled for less than 12 semester hours or the equivalent in
 22 any given semester or quarter and who has never been enrolled for 12 or more semester
 23 hours or the equivalent in any given semester or quarter."

24 SECTION 4.

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

28 "20-3-519.2.

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

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

1 (2) Meet achievement standards by:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 (A) Earning a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at a postsecondary
37 ~~institution at~~ institution:

1 (i) At the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45 quarter
2 hours or 30 semester hours if such student is a full-time student; or

3 (ii) At the end of three consecutive quarters or semesters if such student is a part-time
4 student and has maintained part-time student status for three consecutive quarters or
5 semesters; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

33 (d) To be eligible for a HOPE scholarship, a senior student seeking a baccalaureate degree
34 at a public 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 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 quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 135
6 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)(1)(A) A full-time student who fails to maintain a cumulative grade point average
16 of at least 3.0 at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted
17 45 quarter hours or 30 semester hours may attend the next 45 quarter or 30 semester
18 hours without a HOPE scholarship. An otherwise eligible full-time student who regains
19 a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at the end of a quarter or semester in
20 which the full-time student has attempted 90 ~~quarter hours~~ or 135 quarter hours or 60
21 ~~semester hours~~ or 90 semester hours may requalify for a HOPE scholarship.

22 (B) An otherwise eligible part-time student who regains or attains a cumulative grade
23 point average of at least 3.0 at the end of a quarter or semester in which the part-time
24 student has attempted 45, 90, or 135 quarter hours or 30, 60, or 90 semester hours may
25 attain or requalify for a HOPE scholarship.

26 (2) In addition to other requirements, and regardless of quarter hours or semester hours
27 of coursework attempted, a student who fails to possess a cumulative grade point average
28 of at least 3.0 at the end of each spring quarter or semester or at the end of three
29 consecutive quarters or semesters for a part-time student pursuant to paragraph (2) of
30 subsection (b) of this Code section shall be ineligible for a HOPE scholarship until such
31 time as the student regains or attains a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at
32 one of the 45, 90, or 135 quarter hour grade point average checkpoints or at one of the 30,
33 60, or 90 semester hour grade point average checkpoints, at which time the student will
34 regain or attain eligibility if other terms and conditions in this Code section are also
35 satisfied.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 (3) For purposes of this subsection, attempted hours shall include hours for courses taken
14 pursuant to Code Section 20-2-161.1.

15 (h)(1) Subject to the amounts appropriated by the General Assembly and provisions
16 relating to the ~~scholarship shortfall reserve subaccount~~ Lottery for Education Account in
17 Code Section 50-27-13, a HOPE scholarship awarded under this Code section shall
18 include tuition, approved mandatory fees, and a book allowance not to exceed \$100.00
19 per quarter or \$150.00 per semester, except as otherwise provided for in paragraph (2) of
20 this subsection.

21 (2) Effective beginning with the fall quarter or semester commencing after July 1, 2004,
22 the amount of mandatory fees paid shall be equal to such amount or amounts that were
23 paid on January 1, 2004, except as otherwise provided for in Code Section 50-27-13."

24 SECTION 5.

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

28 "20-3-519.3.

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

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

34 (2) Meet achievement standards by:

35 (A) Having graduated from an eligible high school while meeting the curriculum
36 requirements of his or her program of study in 1996 or thereafter and meeting the

1 requirements set out in the applicable paragraph of subsection (b) of Code Section
2 20-2-157; or

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

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

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

17 (iii) Graduated from a high school which is not 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; and

23 (3) Meet enrollment standards by:

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

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

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

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

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

34 (A) Earning a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at a postsecondary
35 ~~institution at~~ institution;

36 (i) At the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45 quarter
37 hours or 30 semester hours if such student is a full-time student; or

1 (ii) At the end of three consecutive quarters or semesters if such student is a half-time
 2 student and has maintained part-time student status for three consecutive quarters or
 3 semesters; 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:

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

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

14 (c) To be eligible for a HOPE scholarship, a junior student seeking a baccalaureate degree
 15 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 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:

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

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

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

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

1 Student Finance Commission ~~which shall be based upon the in-state tuition policy of the~~
 2 ~~board of regents and the in-state tuition guidelines set by the Department of Technical~~
 3 ~~and Adult Education;~~

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 quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 135
 7 quarter hours or 90 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, in the case of an otherwise eligible student who is classified as
 14 a professional level student rather than an undergraduate student, being accepted into
 15 the professional level program of study prior to receiving a baccalaureate degree; and

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

18 (e)(1)(A) An otherwise eligible full-time student who fails to maintain a cumulative
 19 grade point average of at least 3.0 at the end of the quarter or semester in which the
 20 student has attempted 45 quarter hours or 30 semester hours may attend the next 45
 21 quarter hours or 30 semester hours without a HOPE scholarship. A full-time student
 22 who regains a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at end of the quarter or
 23 semester in which the full-time student has attempted 90 quarter hours or 60 semester
 24 hours may requalify for a HOPE scholarship. A full-time student who regains a
 25 cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at the end of the quarter or semester in
 26 which the full-time student has attempted 135 quarter hours or 90 semester hours may
 27 requalify for a HOPE scholarship.

28 (B) An otherwise eligible half-time student who regains or attains a cumulative grade
 29 point average of at least 3.0 at the end of a quarter or semester in which the half-time
 30 student has attempted 45, 90, or 135 quarter hours or 30, 60, or 90 semester hours may
 31 attain or requalify for a HOPE scholarship.

32 (2) In addition to other requirements, and regardless of quarter or semester hours of
 33 coursework attempted, a student who fails to possess a cumulative grade point average
 34 of at least 3.0 at the end of each spring quarter or semester or at the end of three
 35 consecutive quarters or semesters for a half-time student pursuant to paragraph (2) of
 36 subsection (b) of this Code section shall be ineligible for a HOPE scholarship until such
 37 time as the student regains or attains a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at

1 one of the 45, 90, or 135 quarter hour grade point average checkpoints or at one of the 30,
 2 60, or 90 semester hour grade point average checkpoints, at which time the student will
 3 regain or attain eligibility if other terms and conditions in this Code section are also
 4 satisfied.

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 (3) For purposes of this subsection, attempted hours shall include hours for courses taken
 18 pursuant to Code Section 20-2-161.1.

19 (g)(1) Except as provided for in paragraph (2), subject ~~Subject~~ to the amounts
 20 appropriated by the General Assembly and provisions relating to the scholarship shortfall
 21 reserve subaccount in Code Section 50-27-13, a HOPE scholarship awarded under this
 22 Code section shall be not less than \$3,000.00 for any academic year.

23 (2) Effective beginning with the fall quarter or semester commencing after July 1, 2004,
 24 subject to the amounts appropriated by the General Assembly and provisions relating to
 25 the scholarship shortfall reserve subaccount in Code Section 50-27-13, a HOPE
 26 scholarship awarded under this Code section shall be not less than \$1,500.00 for half-time
 27 enrollment and \$3,000.00 for full-time enrollment for any academic year."

28 SECTION 6.

29 Said chapter is further amended by striking Code Section 20-3-519.4, relating to terms and
 30 conditions for receipt of certain HOPE grants at private postsecondary institutions, and
 31 inserting in lieu thereof the following:

32 "20-3-519.4.

33 ~~(a) An eligible student attending an eligible private postsecondary institution and receiving~~
 34 ~~a HOPE grant during the 1995-1996 academic year under the terms and conditions of~~
 35 ~~eligibility effective for students of eligible private postsecondary institutions during such~~

1 ~~term will be eligible to continue receiving HOPE grant funds under the same terms and~~
 2 ~~conditions until the earlier of the following:~~

3 ~~(1) The end of the spring term of 1999, or~~

4 ~~(2) Graduation.~~

5 ~~(b) A student who received the HOPE grant at a private postsecondary institution for at~~
 6 ~~least one semester or quarter beginning with the summer term of 1995 through the spring~~
 7 ~~term of 1997 is not eligible for the HOPE scholarship at an eligible postsecondary~~
 8 ~~institution until a quarter or semester beginning with or after the summer term of 1999.~~

9 Reserved."

10 SECTION 7.

11 Said chapter is further amended by striking Code Section 20-3-519.5, relating to eligibility
 12 for HOPE grants, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

13 "20-3-519.5.

14 (a) To be eligible for a HOPE grant, a student seeking a diploma or certificate at a branch
 15 of the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education or a unit of the University
 16 System of Georgia 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 promulgated by the Georgia Student
 19 Finance Commission which shall be based upon the in-state tuition policy of the board
 20 of regents and the in-state tuition guidelines set by the Department of Technical and
 21 Adult Education; and

22 (2) Meet enrollment standards by being admitted, enrolled, and classified as an
 23 undergraduate student in a matriculated status in a program of study leading to a
 24 certificate or diploma and maintaining satisfactory academic progress in accordance with
 25 the standards and practices used for federal Title IV programs by the institution at which
 26 the student is enrolled.

27 (b) There is no minimum number of hours of enrollment required for eligibility for a
 28 HOPE grant under this Code section.

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

32 (d)(1) Subject to the amounts appropriated by the General Assembly and provisions
 33 relating to the ~~scholarship shortfall reserve subaccount~~ Lottery for Education Account in
 34 Code Section 50-27-13, a HOPE grant awarded under this Code section shall include
 35 tuition, approved mandatory fees, and a book allowance not to exceed \$100.00 per

1 quarter or \$150.00 per semester, except as otherwise provided for in paragraph (2) of this
 2 subsection.

3 (2) Effective beginning with the fall quarter or semester commencing after July 1, 2004,
 4 the amount of mandatory fees paid shall be equal to such amount or amounts that were
 5 paid on January 1, 2004, except as otherwise provided for in Code Section 50-27-13.

6 (e) No student may receive HOPE grants for more than 95 quarter hours or 63 semester
 7 hours of attempted coursework, except as provided for in subsection (f) of this Code
 8 section. No student may receive more than a cumulative total of 190 quarter hours or 127
 9 semester hours of combined HOPE scholarships and grants, unless in accordance with
 10 Code Sections 20-3-519.2 and 20-3-519.3. For purposes of this subsection, attempted hours
 11 shall include hours for courses taken pursuant to Code Section 20-2-161.1.

12 (f) A student enrolled in a diploma program designed to be more than 95 quarter hours or
 13 63 semester hours in length is eligible to receive a HOPE grant for the lesser of:

14 (1) A total of 130 attempted quarter hours or 86 attempted semester hours; or

15 (2) The number of hours required for graduation."

16 SECTION 8.

17 Said chapter is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

18 "20-3-519.13.

19 (a) There is created as a joint committee of the General Assembly the HOPE
 20 Scholarship/Pre-K Legislative Oversight Committee, to be composed of three members of
 21 the House Committee on Higher Education and three members of the House Committee
 22 on Education, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and three
 23 members of the Senate Higher Education Committee and three members of the Senate
 24 Education Committee, to be appointed by the Committee on Assignments. The
 25 chairpersons of the House Committee on Higher Education and the Senate Higher
 26 Education Committee shall serve as cochairpersons for the oversight committee. The
 27 oversight committee shall study, inquire into, and review the operations of the Georgia
 28 Student Finance Commission with respect to the administration of HOPE scholarships and
 29 grants under this part, as well as review and evaluate the conditions, needs, and issues of
 30 the HOPE scholarship and grant program as provided for under this part, Georgia's Pre-K
 31 program, and any other programs that receive funds from the Lottery for Education
 32 Account, as provided for in Article 1 of Chapter 27 of Title 50. Such study and review shall
 33 be conducted during the first year of each biennium of the General Assembly so as to
 34 determine whether any legislative action may be necessary. The oversight committee may
 35 conduct any independent audit or investigation of the commission or any other appropriate
 36 agency it deems necessary.

1 (b) The Georgia Student Finance Commission and the Department of Early Care and
 2 Learning shall provide the oversight committee with a complete report of the HOPE
 3 scholarship and grant program and the Georgia Pre-K Program no later than December 1
 4 of each year. The committee may request and receive reports from any appropriate agency
 5 in order to conduct activities pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section.

6 (c) The Georgia Student Finance Commission shall submit to the HOPE
 7 Scholarship/Pre-K Legislative Oversight Committee, no later than December 31, 2004, a
 8 proposed plan of implementation regarding the requirements of subsection (b) of Code
 9 Section 20-2-157 and the implications that will result from such changes to the reporting
 10 system. Such plan shall contain any information designated by the oversight committee,
 11 which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

12 (1) All criteria relating to academic qualifications proposed by the commission which
 13 will be used to make a determination of whether a student qualifies for a HOPE
 14 scholarship or grant under subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-157;

15 (2) Procedures to provide notice and guidance to local school systems and private
 16 schools as to the effect of the change in the grading system established by subsection (b)
 17 of Code Section 20-2-157; and

18 (3) Methods to encourage local school systems and private schools to review and address
 19 their grading scales in light of the change in the grading system established by subsection
 20 (b) of Code Section 20-2-157.

21 The HOPE Scholarship/Pre-K Legislative Oversight Committee shall review the proposed
 22 plan of implementation."

23 SECTION 9.

24 Said chapter is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

25 "20-3-519.14.

26 Any residency requirements established pursuant to this part shall provide, at a minimum,
 27 that full-time Georgia employees of Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) based in
 28 Georgia that are recognized by the United States Department of State, and their spouses
 29 and dependents, shall be classified as residents of Georgia."

30 SECTION 10.

31 Code Section 50-27-13 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to disposition of
 32 lottery proceeds, budget report by the Governor, appropriations by the General Assembly,
 33 and the shortfall reserve subaccount, is amended by inserting a new paragraph (5) of
 34 subsection (b) to read as follows:

