

House Bill 299

By: Representatives Hembree of the 67th, Ehrhart of the 36th, Martin of the 47th, and Smith of the 113th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 7 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to HOPE scholarships and grants, so as to provide for certain definitions;
3 to limit the number of quarter or semester hours for which HOPE scholarships may be
4 received at public and private postsecondary institutions; to provide for related matters; to
5 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Part 7 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
9 relating to HOPE scholarships and grants, is amended by striking paragraphs (7) and (8) of
10 Code Section 20-3-519, relating to definitions relating to HOPE scholarships and grants, and
11 inserting in lieu thereof new paragraphs (7) and(8) to read as follows:

12 "(7) 'Eligible postsecondary institution' means a school which is:

13 (A) A unit of the University System of Georgia;

14 (B) A branch of the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education or an
15 affiliated institution which is controlled by a local board of education;

16 (C) A private independent nonprofit postsecondary institution eligible for tuition
17 equalization grants in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (A) of paragraph
18 (2) of Code Section 20-3-411; or

19 (D)(i) A private proprietary postsecondary institution eligible for tuition equalization
20 grants in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (C) of paragraph (2) of
21 Code Section 20-3-411 located in this state which is a baccalaureate degree-granting
22 institution of higher education; which is accredited by a regional accrediting agency
23 recognized by the United States Department of Education; which is not a Bible school
24 or college or, at the graduate level, a school or college of theology or divinity; which
25 admits as regular students only persons who have a high school diploma, a general
26 educational development (GED) diploma, or a degree from an accredited

1 postsecondary institution; whose students are eligible to participate in the federal Pell
 2 Grant program; which has been reviewed and approved for operation by the Georgia
 3 Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission; and which has been in existence
 4 for at least ten years; or

5 (ii) Any proprietary institution that is otherwise qualified pursuant to division (i) of
 6 this subparagraph on July 1, 1995, shall be deemed to be eligible for receipt of HOPE
 7 funds subject to any subsequent review of such approval pursuant to any proper
 8 regulations which may thereafter be adopted in accordance with paragraph (10) of
 9 subsection (b) of Code Section 20-3-250.5 applicable to all qualified proprietary
 10 institutions.

11 (8) 'Eligible private postsecondary institution' means an eligible postsecondary institution
 12 which meets the criteria set out in ~~subparagraph~~ subparagraphs (C) and (D) of paragraph
 13 (7) of this Code section."

14 SECTION 2.

15 Said part is further amended by striking subsection (g) of Code Section 20-3-519.2, relating
 16 to eligibility requirements for a HOPE scholarship at a public postsecondary institution, and
 17 inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (g) to read as follows:

18 "(g)(1) ~~Except as set out in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a~~ A student may receive the
 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 prior to the fall quarter or semester beginning after July 1, 2005,
 24 in an undergraduate degree program designed to be more than 190 quarter hours or 127
 25 semester hours in length is eligible to receive the HOPE scholarship 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 (3) ~~For purposes of this subsection, attempted hours shall include hours for courses taken~~
 31 ~~pursuant to Code Section 20-2-161.1."~~

32 SECTION 3.

33 Said part is further amended by striking subsection (f) of Code Section 20-3-519.3, relating
 34 to eligibility requirements for a HOPE scholarship at a private postsecondary institution, and
 35 inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (f) to read as follows:

