

House Bill 246

By: Representatives Hugley of the 133rd, Porter of the 143rd, Smyre of the 132nd, Ashe of the 56th, Murphy of the 120th, and others

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 the creation of the
3 HOPE Literacy Scholar Program; to provide for legislative findings and intent; to provide
4 that the Department of Education, the board of regents, and local school systems shall
5 develop a program to utilize college and university students who are receiving HOPE
6 scholarships to assist in reading literacy programs in public pre-kindergarten, kindergarten,
7 and elementary schools; to provide for that such students participating in the program who
8 fail to meet grade requirements to maintain their HOPE scholarships shall receive an
9 additional quarter or semester to meet such grade requirements; to provide for related
10 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

13 Part 7 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
14 relating to HOPE scholarships and grants, is amended by revising Code Section 20-3-519.2,
15 relating to eligibility requirements for a HOPE scholarship at a public postsecondary
16 institution, as follows:

17 "20-3-519.2.

18 (a) To be eligible for a HOPE scholarship, an entering freshman student seeking an
19 associate or baccalaureate degree at an eligible public 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 which shall be based upon the in-state tuition policy of the
23 board of regents and the in-state tuition guidelines set by the Department of Technical
24 and Adult Education;

25 (2) Meet achievement standards by:

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

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

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

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

19 (iii) Graduated from a high school which is not an eligible high school, earning a
 20 cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at an eligible public 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, provided that such student shall be eligible to
 23 receive a retroactive HOPE scholarship for such student's freshman year to be paid
 24 at the end of the freshman year; and

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

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

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

34 (2) Except as provided in Code Section 20-2-519.15, meet ~~Meet~~ achievement standards
 35 by meeting the following criteria:

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

11 (c) To be eligible for a HOPE scholarship, a junior student seeking a baccalaureate or first
12 professional degree at a public postsecondary institution shall:

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

18 (2) Except as provided in Code Section 20-2-519.15, meet ~~Meet~~ achievement standards
19 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 first professional degree student rather than an
29 undergraduate student, being accepted into the first professional degree program of study
30 prior to receiving a baccalaureate degree.

31 (d) To be eligible for a HOPE scholarship, a senior student seeking a baccalaureate or a
32 first professional degree 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) Except as provided in Code Section 20-2-519.15, meet ~~Meet~~ achievement standards
 2 by meeting the following criteria:

3 (A) Earning a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at a postsecondary
 4 institution at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 135
 5 quarter hours or 90 semester hours; 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 first professional degree student rather than an
 12 undergraduate student, being accepted into the first professional degree program of study
 13 prior to receiving a baccalaureate degree.

14 (e)(1)(A) Except as provided in Code Section 20-2-519.15, a ~~A~~ full-time student who
 15 fails to maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at the end of the
 16 quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45 quarter hours or 30 semester
 17 hours may attend the next 45 quarter or 30 semester hours without a HOPE scholarship.
 18 ~~An~~ Except as provided in Code Section 20-2-519.15, an otherwise eligible full-time
 19 student who regains a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at the end of a
 20 quarter or semester in which the full-time student has attempted 90 or 135 quarter hours
 21 or 60 or 90 semester hours may requalify for a HOPE scholarship.

22 (B) Except as provided in Code Section 20-2-519.15, an ~~An~~ otherwise eligible
 23 part-time student who regains or attains a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0
 24 at the end of a quarter or semester in which the part-time student has attempted 45, 90,
 25 or 135 quarter hours or 30, 60, or 90 semester hours may attain or requalify for a HOPE
 26 scholarship.

27 (2) Except as provided in Code Section 20-2-519.15, in ~~In~~ addition to other
 28 requirements, and regardless of quarter hours or semester hours of coursework attempted,
 29 a student who fails to possess a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at the end
 30 of each spring quarter or semester or at the end of three consecutive quarters or semesters
 31 for a part-time student pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of this Code section
 32 shall be ineligible for a HOPE scholarship until such time as the student regains or attains
 33 a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at one of the 45, 90, or 135 quarter hour
 34 grade point average checkpoints or at one of the 30, 60, or 90 semester hour grade point
 35 average checkpoints, at which time the student will regain or attain eligibility if other
 36 terms and conditions in this Code section are also satisfied.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 (h)(1) Subject to the amounts appropriated by the General Assembly and provisions
16 relating to the Lottery for Education Account in Code Section 50-27-13, a HOPE
17 scholarship awarded under this Code section shall include tuition, approved mandatory
18 fees, and a book allowance not to exceed \$100.00 per quarter or \$150.00 per semester,
19 except as otherwise provided for in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection.

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

23 (3) Paragraph (2) of this subsection shall not apply to an eligible public postsecondary
24 institution established by law on or after January 1, 2004. For any eligible public
25 postsecondary institution established on or after January 1, 2004, the amount of the
26 mandatory fees paid shall be equal to such amount or amounts initially approved for that
27 new eligible public postsecondary institution for its first year of operation by action of
28 the board of regents or the Department of Technical and Adult Education, as applicable,
29 except as otherwise provided for in Code Section 50-27-13."

30 SECTION 2.

31 Such part is further amended by revising Code Section 20-3-519.4, relating to eligibility
32 requirements for a HOPE scholarship at a private postsecondary institution, as follows:

33 "20-3-519.3.

34 (a) To be eligible for a HOPE scholarship, an entering freshman student seeking an
35 associate or baccalaureate degree 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:
- 5 (A) Having graduated from an eligible high school while meeting the curriculum
6 requirements of his or her program of study in 1996 or thereafter and meeting the
7 requirements set out in the applicable paragraph of subsection (b) of Code Section
8 20-2-157; or
- 9 (B) In the case of a student who is otherwise qualified but:
- 10 (i) Did not graduate from high school or complete a home study program meeting the
11 requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690, having received the general
12 educational development (GED) diploma awarded by the Georgia Department of
13 Technical and Adult Education after June 30, 1993, provided that such student shall
14 only be eligible for a HOPE scholarship pursuant to subsection (e) of this Code
15 section;
- 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:
- 30 (A) Being admitted, enrolled, and classified as an undergraduate student in a
31 matriculated status; and
- 32 (B) Being registered for and attending classes as at least a half-time student for 14 days
33 or more after the last day of the institution's drop and add period.
- 34 (b) To be eligible for a HOPE scholarship, a sophomore student seeking an associate or
35 baccalaureate degree 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) Except as provided in Code Section 20-3-519.15, meet ~~Meet~~ achievement standards
 5 by meeting the following criteria:

6 (A) Earning a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at a postsecondary
 7 institution:

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

10 (ii) At the end of three consecutive quarters or semesters if such student is a half-time
 11 student and has maintained part-time student status for three consecutive quarters or
 12 semesters; and

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

16 (3) Meet enrollment standards by:

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

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

21 (c) To be eligible for a HOPE scholarship, a junior student seeking a baccalaureate or first
 22 professional degree at an eligible private postsecondary institution shall:

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

26 (2) Except as provided in Code Section 20-3-519.15, meet ~~Meet~~ achievement standards
 27 by meeting the following criteria:

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

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

34 (3) Meet enrollment standards by:

35 (A) Being admitted, enrolled, and classified as an undergraduate student in a
 36 matriculated status or provided that in the case of an otherwise eligible student who is
 37 classified as a first professional degree student rather than an undergraduate student,

- 1 have been accepted into the first professional degree program of study prior to receiving
 2 a baccalaureate degree; and
- 3 (B) Being registered for and attending classes as at least a half-time student for 14 days
 4 or more after the last day of the institution's drop and add period.
- 5 (d) To be eligible for a HOPE scholarship, a senior student seeking a baccalaureate or first
 6 professional degree at an eligible private postsecondary institution shall:
- 7 (1) Meet residency requirements by meeting the requirements to be classified as a legal
 8 resident of Georgia as established by the program regulations promulgated by the Georgia
 9 Student Finance Commission;
- 10 (2) Except as provided in Code Section 20-3-519.15, meet ~~Meet~~ achievement standards
 11 by meeting the following criteria:
- 12 (A) Earning a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at a postsecondary
 13 institution at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 135
 14 quarter hours or 90 semester hours; and
- 15 (B) Maintaining satisfactory academic progress in a course of study in accordance with
 16 the standards and practices used for federal Title IV programs by the postsecondary
 17 institution in which the student is enrolled; and
- 18 (3) Meet enrollment standards by:
- 19 (A) Being admitted, enrolled, and classified as an undergraduate student in a
 20 matriculated status or, in the case of an otherwise eligible student who is classified as
 21 a first professional degree student rather than an undergraduate student, being accepted
 22 into the first professional degree program of study prior to receiving a baccalaureate
 23 degree; and
- 24 (B) Being registered for and attending classes as at least a half-time student for 14 days
 25 or more after the last day of the institution's drop and add period.
- 26 (e)(1)(A) Except as provided in Code Section 20-3-519.15, an ~~An~~ otherwise eligible
 27 full-time student who fails to maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0
 28 at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45 quarter hours
 29 or 30 semester hours may attend the next 45 quarter hours or 30 semester hours without
 30 a HOPE scholarship. A Except as provided in Code Section 20-3-519.15, a full-time
 31 student who regains a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at the end of the
 32 quarter or semester in which the full-time student has attempted 90 quarter hours or 60
 33 semester hours may requalify for a HOPE scholarship. A Except as provided in Code
 34 Section 20-3-519.15, a full-time student who regains a cumulative grade point average
 35 of at least 3.0 at the end of the quarter or semester in which the full-time student has
 36 attempted 135 quarter hours or 90 semester hours may requalify for a HOPE
 37 scholarship.

1 (B) Except as provided in Code Section 20-3-519.15, an otherwise eligible
 2 half-time student who regains or attains a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0
 3 at the end of a quarter or semester in which the half-time student has attempted 45, 90,
 4 or 135 quarter hours or 30, 60, or 90 semester hours may attain or requalify for a HOPE
 5 scholarship.

6 (2) Except as provided in Code Section 20-3-519.15, in addition to other
 7 requirements, and regardless of quarter or semester hours of coursework attempted, a
 8 student who fails to possess a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at the end of
 9 each spring quarter or semester or at the end of three consecutive quarters or semesters
 10 for a half-time student pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of this Code section
 11 shall be ineligible for a HOPE scholarship until such time as the student regains or attains
 12 a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at one of the 45, 90, or 135 quarter hour
 13 grade point average checkpoints or at one of the 30, 60, or 90 semester hour grade point
 14 average checkpoints, at which time the student will regain or attain eligibility if other
 15 terms and conditions in this Code section are also satisfied.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 3.

Such part is further amended by adding a new Code Section 20-3-519.15 to read as follows:

"20-3-519.15.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) There is a need to prevent or minimize continued early reading failure in Georgia and to reduce the effect of inadequate literacy skills in the performance of Georgia's children as a group;

(2) Improved literacy skills will directly improve the educational attainment of Georgia's children and ultimately their economic future and the economic future of Georgia;

(3) Literacy skills of young students can be improved through the provision of available, well-trained tutors in addition to creating a more favorable atmosphere for learning with more time on task and more opportunities to read and receive immediate, positive, and corrective feedback to help the young student stay on track; and

(4) A program of such tutors can assist in closing achievement gaps among students early and in educational success that will reduce the number of dropouts and increase the number of college graduates in this state.

(b) The Department of Education and the board of regents in cooperation with local school systems shall develop and implement the HOPE Literacy Scholar Program. The program shall be designed to give college students who are receiving HOPE scholarships training in early reading and reading readiness skills to allow such students to tutor children in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and grades one through four. HOPE scholars who enroll in the program shall commit to volunteering in public pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and elementary schools for not less than 20 hours per quarter or 30 hours per semester as a reading mentor to help deliver an appropriately designed reading comprehension curriculum, working one-on-one or in small groups with young students.

(c) Each student who accepts a HOPE scholarship shall be given the option of enrolling in the HOPE Literacy Scholar Program. After completing the specialized reading comprehension training program in early reading and reading readiness skills, the student shall be certified as a reading mentor and shall be assigned to a public pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, or elementary school. The public pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, or elementary school shall maintain records of the student's attendance and hours spent as a reading mentor and shall report such hours and attendance to the student's educational institution each quarter or semester, as appropriate, for that institution.

(d) A student who is enrolled in the HOPE Literacy Scholar Program, who volunteered at least 20 hours per quarter or 30 hours per semester in the quarter or semester preceding such student's being reviewed for the continuation of his or her HOPE scholarship under Code Section 20-2-519.2 or 20-2-519.3, and who does not have a cumulative grade point

1 average of at least 3.0 shall receive an additional quarter or semester, as appropriate, to
2 bring his or her cumulative grade point average to at least 3.0 prior to losing his or her
3 HOPE scholarship, provided that such student has a cumulative grade point average of at
4 least 2.5. The extension provided in this subsection may be used only once.

5 (e) The Department of Education and the board of regents shall report to the General
6 Assembly not later than December 31 of each year on the effectiveness of the program and
7 the need, if any, for further legislation. Such report shall be delivered to the presiding
8 officer of each house of the General Assembly and the chairpersons of the education and
9 higher education committees in each house of the General Assembly.

10 (f) The Department of Education, the board of regents, and the Georgia Student Finance
11 Commission are authorized to promulgate rules and regulations as necessary to implement
12 this program."

13

SECTION 4.

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