

House Bill 152 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Lunsford of the 110th, Stephens of the 164th, Mills of the 25th, Coan of the 101st, Hembree of the 67th, 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 that otherwise
3 qualified students who score in the eighty-fifth percentile or higher nationally on a
4 standardized college admission test shall be eligible for the HOPE scholarship; to provide
5 for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
6 purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Part 7 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
10 relating to HOPE scholarships and grants, is amended by revising subsection (a) of Code
11 Section 20-3-519.2, relating to eligibility requirements for a HOPE scholarship at a public
12 postsecondary institution, as follows:

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

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

20 (2) Meet achievement standards by:

21 (A) Having graduated from an eligible high school while meeting the curriculum
22 requirements of his or her program of study in 1993 or thereafter and meeting the
23 requirements set out in the applicable subsection and paragraph of Code Section
24 20-2-157; ~~or~~

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

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

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

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

(C) In the case of an otherwise qualified student who:

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

(ii) Completed a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690 in lieu of graduating from an eligible high school; or

(iii) Graduated from a high school which is not an eligible high school, earning a score in the eighty-fifth percentile or higher nationally on a standardized college admission test, such as the SAT or ACT; and

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

SECTION 2.

Said part is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 20-3-519.3, relating to eligibility requirements for a HOPE scholarship at a private postsecondary institution, as follows:

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

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

6 (2) Meet achievement standards by:

7 (A) Having graduated from an eligible high school while meeting the curriculum
8 requirements of his or her program of study in 1996 or thereafter and meeting the
9 requirements set out in the applicable paragraph of subsection (b) of Code Section
10 20-2-157; ~~or~~

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

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

18 (ii) Completed a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of
19 Code Section 20-2-690 in lieu of graduating from 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; or

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

31 (C) In the case of an otherwise qualified student who:

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

36 (ii) Completed a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of
37 Code Section 20-2-690 in lieu of graduating from an eligible high school; or

(iii) Graduated from a high school which is not an eligible high school, earning a score in the eighty-fifth percentile or higher nationally on a standardized college admission test, such as the SAT or ACT; and

(3) Meet enrollment standards by:

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

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

SECTION 3.

This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

SECTION 4.

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