

The Senate Higher Education Committee offered the following substitute to HB 243:

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 revise a definition and add a
3 definition; to provide that enrollment in postsecondary courses at a branch of the Georgia
4 Department of Technical and Adult Education will not count against the hourly caps for
5 HOPE grants; to amend Article 2 of Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
6 Annotated, relating to technical and adult education, so as to enact the "Career Academies
7 Act of 2007"; to provide for legislative intent; to provide for definitions; to provide for the
8 disbursement of funds by the State Board of Technical and Adult Education for career
9 academies established as charter schools; to provide for a matching requirement; to provide
10 for eligibility criteria; to provide for an annual report; to provide for related matters; to
11 provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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 adding a new paragraph (5.1) and
15 revising paragraph (7) of Code Section 20-3-519, relating to definitions regarding HOPE
16 scholarships and grants, as follows:
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18 "(5.1) 'Dual credit enrollment' means enrollment by a student in a postsecondary course
19 in which an agreement has been established between an eligible high school and an
20 eligible postsecondary institution wherein the student earns Carnegie units of credit that
21 count toward both high school graduation requirements and postsecondary coursework
22 requirements."

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

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

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

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

4 (D) A private proprietary postsecondary institution eligible for tuition equalization
 5 grants in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (C) of paragraph (2) of Code
 6 Section 20-3-411."

7 SECTION 2.

8 Said part is further amended by revising subsection (e) of Code Section 20-3-519.5, relating
 9 to eligibility for HOPE grants at a branch of the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult
 10 Education, as follows:

11 "(e) No student may receive HOPE grants for more than 95 quarter hours or 63 semester
 12 hours of attempted coursework, except as provided for in subsection (f) of this Code
 13 section. No student may receive more than a cumulative total of 190 quarter hours or 127
 14 semester hours of combined HOPE scholarships and grants, unless in accordance with
 15 Code Sections 20-3-519.2 and 20-3-519.3. For purposes of this subsection, attempted
 16 hours shall not include hours for courses taken pursuant to ~~Code Section 20-2-161.1~~ and
 17 paid for by a HOPE grant while a student is participating in dual credit enrollment with
 18 both an eligible high school and a branch of the Department of Technical and Adult
 19 Education or a unit of the University System of Georgia. The Department of Technical and
 20 Adult Education or the University System of Georgia, as applicable, shall verify that the
 21 student is enrolled in an eligible high school and shall notify the Georgia Student Finance
 22 Commission of the student's participation in dual credit enrollment."

23 SECTION 3.

24 Article 2 of Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
 25 technical and adult education, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

26 "20-4-37.

27 (a) This Code section shall be known and may be cited as the 'Career Academies Act of
 28 2007.'

29 (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly to increase graduation rates, potential job
 30 opportunities, and educational opportunities for students by establishing and providing
 31 start-up funds for career academies through the partnership of technical colleges and local
 32 boards of education.

33 (c) As used in this Code section, the term:

34 (1) 'Board' means the State Board of Technical and Adult Education.

1 (2) 'Career academy' means a specialized charter school established by a partnership
2 between a local board of education, or a group of local boards of education, in
3 cooperation with a local technical college and approved by the State Board of Education
4 in accordance with Article 31 of Chapter 2 of this title.

5 (3) 'Charter petitioner' means a local board of education, or a group of local boards of
6 education, in cooperation with a local technical college which have partnered to establish
7 a career academy as a charter school pursuant to Article 31 of Chapter 2 of this title.

8 (4) 'Charter school' shall have the same meaning as in paragraph (3) of Code Section
9 20-2-2062.

10 (5) 'Local technical college' means a local technical school, college, or institute under the
11 auspices of the Department of Technical and Adult Education.

12 (d) The board shall be authorized to disburse funds, subject to appropriations or other
13 available funding, to career academies for start-up costs.

14 (e) A charter petitioner for a career academy that has submitted or that has drafted for
15 submission a charter petition for a career academy to the State Board of Education for
16 approval shall be authorized to submit to the board an application for start-up funds. The
17 board shall approve applications for start-up funds for career academies that meet the
18 criteria and requirements, subject to appropriations or other available funding, established
19 pursuant to subsection (h) of this Code section. Funds shall not be released to an approved
20 applicant unless the charter petition is approved by the State Board of Education pursuant
21 to Article 31 of Chapter 2 of this title.

22 (f) The board shall also be authorized to disburse funds, subject to appropriations or other
23 available funding, to existing charter career academies which demonstrate a need for
24 supplemental funding.

25 (g) The board shall establish a matching requirement for recipients of funds under this
26 Code section.

27 (h) The board shall establish eligibility criteria, requirements, and procedures for the
28 disbursement of funding to charter academies pursuant to this Code section. Such criteria,
29 requirements, and procedures shall provide that the board shall consider the strength of the
30 proposed partnership between the local board of education, or the group of local boards of
31 education, and the local technical college as well as the active support of the local business
32 community for the career academy.

33 (i) A career academy receiving funds pursuant to this Code section shall submit an annual
34 report to the board regarding the expenditure of the funds received pursuant to this Code
35 section."

SECTION 4.

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

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SECTION 5.

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