

House Bill 920

By: Representatives Hembree of the 67<sup>th</sup>, Coleman of the 97<sup>th</sup>, Dickson of the 6<sup>th</sup>, Casas of the 103<sup>rd</sup>, Maxwell of the 17<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-2-157 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
2 uniform reporting system for high school grades for purposes of determining eligibility for  
3 enrollment and scholarships for postsecondary education, so as to provide that certain scores  
4 on end-of-course assessments will result in additional credit for purposes of determining  
5 eligibility for HOPE scholarships; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws;  
6 and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

9 Code Section 20-2-157 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the uniform  
10 reporting system for high school grades for purposes of determining eligibility for enrollment  
11 and scholarships for postsecondary education, is amended by revising subsection (b) as  
12 follows:

13 "(b) Beginning May 1, 2007, each school system and private school shall adopt the  
14 reporting system described in this subsection for purposes of identifying and qualifying  
15 graduating seniors for the HOPE scholarship program and other programs identified in this  
16 Code section:

17 (1) Each school system and private school shall transmit, in a manner and at times  
18 prescribed by the Georgia Student Finance Commission, an electronic transcript of  
19 courses and course grades for each graduating senior that reflects the complete high  
20 school academic record of the student, including scores on any state tests required for  
21 graduation and all end-of-course assessments, whether or not required for graduation, the  
22 grading scales used by the school system or private school for the time periods referenced  
23 by the transcripts, and any other pertinent information as determined by the Georgia  
24 Student Finance Commission. Each grade reported by a school system or private school  
25 to the commission for the purpose of calculating the grade point average for HOPE

1 scholarship eligibility shall be the actual grade earned by the student, with no weighting  
2 or addition of points by the local school system or private school;

3 (2) The Georgia Student Finance Commission shall calculate a grade point average for  
4 the purpose of determining eligibility for the HOPE scholarship from these electronic  
5 transcripts and shall notify students of their eligibility and high schools as to the  
6 eligibility of students;

7 (3) For students otherwise qualified and enrolling as freshmen students in eligible public  
8 or private postsecondary institutions for the first time on May 1, 2007, or thereafter, the  
9 Georgia Student Finance Commission shall calculate grade point averages for  
10 determining eligibility for the HOPE scholarship and other scholarships referenced in this  
11 Code section as follows:

12 (A) For students receiving a college preparatory diploma, each grade for a student in  
13 attempted coursework in English, mathematics, science, social studies, and foreign  
14 language that would, if successfully completed, satisfy a core graduation requirement  
15 for the college preparatory curriculum shall be equated to a grade on a 4.0 scale, such  
16 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,  
17 and a grade of 'F' = 0; or

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

23 Grades for coursework that is classified as advanced placement or international  
24 baccalaureate shall be weighted by the Georgia Student Finance Commission in  
25 calculating the overall grade point averages for students, provided that the weighting of  
26 such course grades is uniformly applied to all students in the state taking the specified  
27 coursework. A student who receives a score on an end-of-course assessment which is  
28 deemed by the State Board of Education as 'exceeds expectations' shall receive an  
29 additional 0.25 point for each such assessment on which he or she receives such  
30 designation. The sum of the equated grades and the additional end-of-course assessment  
31 points shall be divided by the number of course grades, adjusted for term length, to yield  
32 a grade point average on a 4.0 scale;

33 (4) Qualification for the HOPE scholarship shall be determined from the grade point  
34 average calculated as set out in paragraph (3) of this subsection. Beginning May 1, 2007,  
35 students with grade point averages equal to or in excess of 3.0 on the 4.0 scale with a  
36 college preparatory diploma shall meet achievement standards for the HOPE scholarship;  
37 students receiving a career/technical diploma shall meet achievement standards for the

1 HOPE scholarship with a grade point average equal to or in excess of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale.  
2 This paragraph shall apply regardless of when a student graduated from high school and  
3 regardless of such student's eligibility status prior to May 1, 2007; and  
4 (5) Beginning May 1, 2007, only the reporting system as indicated in this subsection  
5 shall be used to determine eligibility for all grants, scholarships, or loans to attend  
6 colleges or universities which are administered pursuant to Article 7 of Chapter 3 of this  
7 title and eligibility for enrollment in postsecondary courses pursuant to Code Section  
8 20-2-161.1."

9 **SECTION 2.**

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