

Senate Bill 492

By: Senators Bulloch of the 11th and Harp of the 29th

AS PASSED SENATE

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT**

1 To amend Code Section 20-3-519 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 definitions applicable to HOPE scholarships and grants, so as to add an additional accrediting
3 entity to the definition of the term "eligible high school"; to amend Code Sections 20-3-519.2
4 and 20-3-519.3 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to eligibility
5 requirements for a HOPE scholarship at a public or private postsecondary institution, so as
6 to provide that postsecondary level course hours taken prior to high school graduation will
7 count towards hourly caps under certain conditions; to provide for related matters; to repeal
8 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 Code Section 20-3-519 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to definitions
12 applicable to HOPE scholarships and grants, is amended by revising paragraph (6) as
13 follows:

14 "(6) 'Eligible high school' means a public or private secondary school which is:

15 (A) Located in Georgia and accredited as such by:

- 16 (i) The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools;
- 17 (ii) The Georgia Accrediting Commission;
- 18 (iii) The Georgia Association of Christian Schools;
- 19 (iv) The Association of Christian Schools International;
- 20 (v) The Georgia Private School Accreditation Council;
- 21 (vi) The Accrediting Commission for Independent Study; or
- 22 (vii) The Southern Association of Independent Schools; or

23 (B) Located in another state and accredited by one of the following regional or state
24 accrediting entities agencies:

- 25 (i) The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools;
- 26 (ii) The New England Association of Schools and Colleges;

- 1 (iii) The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools;
 2 (iv) The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools;
 3 (v) The Northwestern Association of Schools and Colleges;
 4 (vi) The Western Association of Schools and Colleges;
 5 (vii) The Alabama Independent School Association; ~~or~~
 6 (viii) The Southern Association of Independent Schools; or
 7 (ix) The Florida Council of Independent Schools."

8 **SECTION 2.**

9 Code Section 20-3-519.2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to eligibility
 10 requirements for a HOPE scholarship at a public postsecondary institution, is amended by
 11 adding a new paragraph to the end of subsection (g) to read as follows:

12 "(3) Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, attempted hours shall include all
 13 postsecondary level course hours taken prior to high school graduation if such student
 14 does not qualify for the HOPE scholarship as an entering freshman based solely on his
 15 or her grade point average. As used in this paragraph, the term 'postsecondary level
 16 course hours' means hours accepted by the student's eligible postsecondary institution for
 17 credit when the student enters as a freshman."

18 **SECTION 3.**

19 Code Section 20-3-519.3 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to eligibility
 20 requirements for a HOPE scholarship at a private postsecondary institution, is amended by
 21 adding a new paragraph to the end of subsection (f) to read as follows:

22 "(3) Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, attempted hours shall include all
 23 postsecondary level course hours taken prior to high school graduation if such student
 24 does not qualify for the HOPE scholarship as an entering freshman based solely on his
 25 or her grade point average. As used in this paragraph, the term 'postsecondary level
 26 course hours' means hours accepted by the student's eligible postsecondary institution for
 27 credit when the student enters as a freshman."

28 **SECTION 4.**

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