

Senate Bill 496

By: Senators Hill of the 4th, Seabaugh of the 28th, Harp of the 29th, Douglas of the 17th,  
Smith of the 52nd 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 establish the HOPE needs  
3 based scholarship; to provide for a definition; to provide for eligibility requirements; to  
4 provide for scholarship amounts; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws;  
5 and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Part 7 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
9 relating to HOPE scholarships and grants, is amended by adding a new paragraph to Code  
10 Section 20-3-519, relating to definitions, to read as follows:

11 "(13.1) 'HOPE needs based scholarship' means a Helping Outstanding Pupils  
12 Educationally needs based scholarship for education awarded in accordance with Code  
13 Section 20-3-519.4."

14 **SECTION 2.**

15 Said part is further amended by revising Code Section 20-2-519.4, which is reserved, as  
16 follows:

17 "20-3-519.4.

18 (a) To be eligible for a HOPE needs based scholarship, a student seeking an associate or  
19 baccalaureate degree at an eligible public postsecondary institution shall:

20 (1) Meet residency requirements by:

21 (A) Meeting the requirements to be classified as a legal resident of Georgia as  
22 established by the program regulations promulgated by the Georgia Student Finance  
23 Commission which shall be based upon the in-state tuition policy of the board of  
24 regents and the in-state tuition guidelines set by the Technical College System of  
25 Georgia; and

26 (B)(i) If the student was classified as a legal resident of Georgia at the time of  
 27 graduation from high school or from a home study program meeting the requirements  
 28 of Code Section 20-2-690, then the student must have met the requirements set forth  
 29 in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph for a period of at least 12 months immediately  
 30 prior to the first day of classes for which the HOPE scholarship is to be awarded; or  
 31 (ii) If the student was not classified as a legal resident at the time of graduation from  
 32 high school or from a home study program meeting the requirements of Code Section  
 33 20-2-690, then the student must have met the requirements set forth in subparagraph  
 34 (A) of this paragraph for a period of at least 24 months immediately prior to the first  
 35 day of classes for which the HOPE needs based scholarship is to be awarded.

36 Notwithstanding the foregoing, a dependent child of military personnel stationed in  
 37 Georgia shall be deemed to be a legal resident of Georgia and, subject to meeting all other  
 38 eligibility requirements, shall be eligible to receive the HOPE needs based scholarship as  
 39 a freshman if the student graduated from a high school located in Georgia or from a home  
 40 study program meeting the requirements of Code Section 20-2-690 that is located in  
 41 Georgia;

42 (2) Meet further eligibility standards established by the Georgia Student Finance  
 43 Commission which shall be based on criteria aimed at serving the neediest students; and

44 (3) Be a recipient of federal educational assistance funds awarded under the federal Pell  
 45 Grant Program for any academic term for which a HOPE needs based scholarship is  
 46 sought under this Code section.

47 (b) Only full-time students who attend an eligible public postsecondary institution shall  
 48 be eligible for a HOPE needs based scholarship under this Code section.

49 (c)(1) Except as set out in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a student may receive the  
 50 HOPE needs based scholarship until the first of these events:

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

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

54 (2) A student enrolled in an undergraduate or first professional degree program designed  
 55 to be more than 190 quarter hours or 127 semester hours in length is eligible to receive  
 56 the HOPE needs based scholarship for a total of 225 attempted quarter hours or 150  
 57 attempted semester hours.

58 (d) Subject to appropriations by the General Assembly, the Georgia Student Finance  
 59 Commission shall determine HOPE needs based scholarship award amounts, which may

60 be determined on a sliding scale based on income. It is the intent of the General Assembly  
61 that the HOPE needs based scholarships awarded pursuant to this Code section be targeted  
62 at the neediest students.  
63 ~~Reserved.~~"

64 **SECTION 3.**  
65 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.