

**ADOPTED**

Senators Rogers of the 21st and Williams of the 19th offered the following amendment:

1 *Amend HB 907 (LC 33 3346) by inserting after "scheduling;" on line 3 the following:*

2 to amend Article 33 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
3 relating to the scholarship program for special needs students, so as to provide for  
4 application deadlines; to provide deadlines for scholarship payments to parents;

5 *By inserting between lines 70 and 71 the following:*

**SECTION 1B.**

6  
7 Said article is further amended in Code Section 20-2-2114, relating to qualifications for  
8 scholarship, by revising paragraphs (3) and (5) of subsection (a) as follows:

9 "(3) The student has spent the prior school year in attendance at a Georgia public school  
10 and ~~shall have had an~~ has a current Individualized Education Program (IEP) written by  
11 the school in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations, regardless of when  
12 such IEP was put into place;"

13 "(5) The parent submits an application for a scholarship to the department no later than  
14 the deadline established by the department; provided, however, that the department shall  
15 provide application deadline opportunities on August 1, October 1, and March 1 of each  
16 school year for a student to transfer."

**SECTION 1C.**

17  
18 Said article is further amended in Code Section 20-2-2116, relating to amount of scholarship,  
19 by revising subsection (e) as follows:

20 "(e) Upon proper documentation received by the department, the department shall make  
21 equal quarterly scholarship payments to the parents of scholarship students ~~on dates~~  
22 ~~established by the department~~ or, for students who have been enrolled in a participating  
23 school for at least ten days in the prior quarter if such students enrolled in the participating  
24 school after the school's start date, the department shall make scholarship payments to the  
25 parents of such students beginning on the next payment date included in this subsection.  
26 The department shall make payments on or before September 1, November 1, February 1,  
27 and April 1 for periods corresponding, respectively, to July 1 through September 30,  
28 October 1 through December 31, January 1 through February 28, and March 1 through  
29 June 30 during each academic year in which the scholarship is in force. In the event that  
30 a quarterly payment date is missed due to a student not having been enrolled for at least ten  
31 days in the prior quarter, the full or prorated scholarship amount, as applicable, for that

32 deadline shall be included in the payment on the next following payment deadline. The  
33 state auditor shall cite as an audit exception any failure by the department to meet any such  
34 payment deadlines and shall include such audit exceptions on the website established  
35 pursuant to Code Section 50-6-32. The initial payment shall be made upon evidence of  
36 admission to the participating school, and subsequent payments shall be made on evidence  
37 of continued enrollment and attendance at the participating school."