

House Bill 181

By: Representatives Golick of the 34th, Coleman of the 97th, Casas of the 103rd, Lindsey of the 54th, Nix of the 69th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 33 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to the scholarship program for special needs students, so as to provide for the waiver
3 of one of the scholarship requirements under certain conditions; to provide for related
4 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

7 Article 33 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
8 scholarship program for special needs students, is amended by revising subsection (a) of
9 Code Section 20-2-2114, relating to qualifications for the scholarship, as follows:

10 "(a) A student shall qualify for a scholarship under this article if:

11 (1) The student's parent currently resides within Georgia and has been a Georgia resident
12 for at least one year;

13 (2) The student has one or more of the following disabilities:

14 (A) Autism;

15 (B) Deaf/blind;

16 (C) Deaf/hard of hearing;

17 (D) Emotional and behavioral disorder;

18 (E) Intellectual disability;

19 (F) Orthopedic impairment;

20 (G) Other health impairment;

21 (H) Specific learning disability;

22 (I) Speech-language impairment;

23 (J) Traumatic brain injury; or

24 (K) Visual impairment;

25 (3) The student has spent the prior school year in attendance at a Georgia public school
26 and shall have had an Individualized Education Program (IEP) written by the school in

27 accordance with federal and state laws and regulations; provided, however, that the State
28 Board of Education shall be authorized to waive the prior school year requirement
29 contained in this paragraph, in its sole discretion, on a case-by-case basis for specific
30 medical needs of the student upon the request of a parent or guardian in accordance with
31 state board procedures;

32 (4) The parent obtains acceptance for admission of the student to a participating school;
33 and

34 (5) The parent submits an application for a scholarship to the department no later than
35 the deadline established by the department."

36 **SECTION 2.**

37 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.