

Senate Bill 119

By: Senators James of the 35th, Williams of the 19th, Jones of the 10th, Seay of the 34th, Davenport of the 44th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to scholarships, loans, and grants, so as to revise certain definitions relating to tuition  
3 equalization grants and HOPE scholarships and grants; to provide for related matters; to  
4 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 SECTION 1.

7 Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
8 scholarships, loans, and grants, is amended by revising subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2)  
9 of Code Section 20-3-411, relating to definitions relative to tuition equalization grants at  
10 private colleges and universities, as follows:

11 "(A) A nonproprietary institution of higher education located in this state which is not  
12 a branch of the university system; which is accredited by the Southern Association of  
13 Colleges and Schools; which is not a graduate level school or college of theology or  
14 divinity; and which is not presently receiving state funds under Article 4 of this chapter;  
15 provided, however, that an institution which otherwise meets the requirements of this  
16 definition and of this subpart except for the lack of accreditation by the Southern  
17 Association of Colleges and Schools shall be deemed to be an 'approved school' during  
18 the period that the institution holds candidate for accreditation status with the Southern  
19 Association of Colleges and Schools; provided, further, that an institution which was  
20 previously accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools within the  
21 last ~~seven~~ eleven years, which is currently working to reattain such accreditation, and  
22 which otherwise meets the requirements of this definition and of this subpart except for  
23 the lack of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools shall be  
24 deemed to be an 'approved school';"

25 **SECTION 2.**

26 Said article is further amended in Code Section 20-3-519, relating to definitions relative to  
27 HOPE scholarships and grants, by revising paragraph (6.1) as follows:

28 "(6.1) On and after January 1, 2011, 'eligible high school' means a public or private  
29 secondary school which is:

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

- 31 (i) The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools;
- 32 (ii) The Georgia Accrediting Commission;
- 33 (iii) The Georgia Association of Christian Schools;
- 34 (iv) The Association of Christian Schools International;
- 35 (v) The Georgia Private School Accreditation Council;
- 36 (vi) The Accrediting Commission for Independent Study; or
- 37 (vii) The Southern Association of Independent Schools;

38 provided, however, that between July 1, 2011, and June 30, 2013, if a high school  
39 located in Georgia was accredited by one of the accrediting agencies included in this  
40 subparagraph within the previous two years, such high school shall be considered an  
41 eligible high school for purposes of this subparagraph; or

42 (B) Located in another state and accredited by one of the following regional agencies:

- 43 (i) The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools;
- 44 (ii) The New England Association of Schools and Colleges;
- 45 (iii) The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools;
- 46 (iv) The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools;
- 47 (v) The Northwestern Association of Schools and Colleges;
- 48 (vi) The Western Association of Schools and Colleges;
- 49 (vii) The Alabama Independent School Association; or
- 50 (viii) The Southern Association of Independent Schools."

51 **SECTION 3.**

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