

Senate Bill 235

By: Senator Thompson of the 5th

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 provide that the Georgia
3 Student Finance Commission shall establish the amount of HOPE scholarship and grants
4 awards each year; to provide for related matters; to provide for a contingent effective date
5 and contingent repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; 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 revising subsection (h) of Code
10 Section 20-3-519.2, relating to eligibility requirements for a HOPE scholarship at a public
11 postsecondary institution, as follows:

12 ~~“(h)(†) Subject to the amounts appropriated by the General Assembly and provisions~~
13 ~~relating to the Lottery for Education Account in Code Section 50-27-13, a HOPE~~
14 ~~scholarship~~ the Georgia Student Finance Commission shall establish the amount of the
15 HOPE scholarships to be awarded under this Code section during each fiscal year for each
16 qualifying student under this Code section, and such amounts shall be accepted by all
17 institution of the University System of Georgia as full payment for tuition for the courses
18 taken by such qualifying student at any such institution during such fiscal year and such
19 student shall not be charged any additional amount for tuition for such courses shall include
20 tuition, approved mandatory fees, and a book allowance not to exceed \$100.00 per quarter
21 or \$150.00 per semester, except as otherwise provided for in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this
22 subsection.

23 ~~(2) Effective beginning with the fall quarter or semester commencing after July 1, 2004,~~
24 ~~the amount of mandatory fees paid shall be equal to such amount or amounts that were~~
25 ~~paid on January 1, 2004, except as otherwise provided for in Code Section 50-27-13.~~

26 ~~(3) Paragraph (2) of this subsection shall not apply to an eligible public postsecondary~~
 27 ~~institution established by law on or after January 1, 2004. For any eligible public~~
 28 ~~postsecondary institution established on or after January 1, 2004, the amount of the~~
 29 ~~mandatory fees paid shall be equal to such amount or amounts initially approved for that~~
 30 ~~new eligible public postsecondary institution for its first year of operation by action of~~
 31 ~~the board of regents or the Technical College System of Georgia, as applicable, except~~
 32 ~~as otherwise provided for in Code Section 50-27-13."~~

33 SECTION 2.

34 Said part is further amended by revising subsection (g) of Code Section 20-3-519.3, relating
 35 to eligibility requirements for a HOPE scholarship at a private postsecondary institution, as
 36 follows:

37 ~~"(g)(1) Except as provided for in paragraph (2) of this subsection, subject~~ Subject ~~to the~~
 38 ~~amounts appropriated by the General Assembly and provisions relating to the scholarship~~
 39 ~~shortfall reserve subaccount in Code Section 50-27-13, a HOPE scholarship~~ the Georgia
 40 Student Finance Commission shall establish the amount of the HOPE scholarships to be
 41 awarded under this Code section during each fiscal year shall be not less than \$3,000.00
 42 for any academic year.

43 ~~(2) Effective beginning with the fall quarter or semester commencing after July 1, 2004,~~
 44 ~~subject to the amounts appropriated by the General Assembly and provisions relating to~~
 45 ~~the scholarship shortfall reserve subaccount in Code Section 50-27-13, a HOPE~~
 46 ~~scholarship awarded under this Code section shall be not less than \$1,500.00 for half-time~~
 47 ~~enrollment and \$3,000.00 for full-time enrollment for any academic year."~~

48 SECTION 3.

49 Said part is further amended by revising subsection (d) of Code Section 20-3-519.5, relating
 50 to eligibility requirements for a HOPE grant at a branch of the Technical College System of
 51 Georgia, as follows:

52 ~~"(d)(1) Subject to the amounts appropriated by the General Assembly and provisions~~
 53 ~~relating to the Lottery for Education Account in Code Section 50-27-13, a HOPE grant~~
 54 the Georgia Student Finance Commission shall establish the amount of the HOPE grants
 55 to be awarded under this Code section during each fiscal year for each qualifying student
 56 under this Code section, and such amounts shall be accepted by all institutions of the
 57 Technical College System of Georgia as full payment for tuition for the courses taken
 58 by such qualifying student at any such institution during such fiscal year and such student
 59 shall not be charged any additional amount for tuition for such courses shall include
 60 tuition, approved mandatory fees, and a book allowance not to exceed \$100.00 per

61 ~~quarter or \$150.00 per semester, except as otherwise provided for in paragraph (2) of this~~
62 ~~subsection.~~

63 ~~(2) Effective beginning with the fall quarter or semester commencing after July 1, 2004,~~
64 ~~the amount of mandatory fees paid shall be equal to such amount or amounts that were~~
65 ~~paid on January 1, 2004, except as otherwise provided for in Code Section 50-27-13."~~

66 **SECTION 4.**

67 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2013, provided that an amendment to the State
68 Constitution is passed by the General Assembly and ratified by the electors at the November,
69 2012, general election authorizing the General Assembly by general law to establish the
70 amount of tuition that may be charged to students receiving lottery funded scholarships and
71 grants and attending colleges and universities operated by the board of regents or institutions
72 operated by the Technical College System of Georgia. Otherwise, this Act shall be repealed
73 by operation of law on January 1, 2012.

74 **SECTION 5.**

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