

House Bill 181 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

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 require a local board of education to expedite
29 the development of an Individualized Education Program and to waive the prior school
30 year requirement contained in this paragraph, in its sole discretion, on a case-by-case
31 basis for specific medical needs of the student upon the request of a parent or guardian
32 in accordance with state board procedures. If an expedited Individualized Education
33 Program is required by the state board pursuant to this paragraph, the state board may
34 additionally require such expedited process to be completed prior to the beginning of the
35 school year. The State Board of Education shall provide an annual report by December
36 31 of each year through December 31, 2015, regarding the number of waivers approved
37 pursuant to this paragraph to the General Assembly;
38 (4) The parent obtains acceptance for admission of the student to a participating school;
39 and
40 (5) The parent submits an application for a scholarship to the department no later than
41 the deadline established by the department."

42 **SECTION 2.**

43 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.