

Senate Bill 451

By: Senators Loudermilk of the 52nd, Carter of the 1st, Rogers of the 21st, Hill of the 32nd, Crane of the 28th and others

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 revise requirements for home
3 study students who earn a minimum SAT or ACT score for purposes of eligibility for a
4 HOPE scholarship; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
5 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 in Code Section 20-3-519.2, relating
10 to eligibility requirements for a HOPE scholarship, by revising subsection (a) as follows:

11 "(a) To be eligible for a HOPE scholarship, an entering freshman student seeking an
12 associate or baccalaureate degree at an eligible postsecondary institution shall, in addition
13 to meeting the residency requirements set forth in subsection (a) of Code Section
14 20-3-519.1:

15 (1) Meet achievement standards by:

16 (A) Having graduated from an eligible high school while meeting the curriculum
17 requirements of his or her program of study in 1993 or thereafter and meeting the
18 requirements set out in the applicable subsection and paragraph of Code Section
19 20-2-157;

20 (B) In the case of a student who is otherwise qualified but:

21 (i) Did not graduate from high school or complete a home study program meeting the
22 requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690, having received the general
23 educational development (GED) diploma awarded by the Department of Technical
24 and Adult Education, now known as the Technical College System of Georgia, after
25 June 30, 1993, provided that such student shall only be eligible for a HOPE
26 scholarship pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section;

27 (ii) Completed a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of
 28 Code Section 20-2-690 in lieu of graduating from an eligible high school, earning a
 29 cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at an eligible postsecondary institution
 30 at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45 quarter
 31 hours or 30 semester hours, provided that such student shall be eligible to receive a
 32 retroactive HOPE scholarship for such student's freshman year to be paid at the end
 33 of the freshman year; or

34 (iii) Graduated from a high school which is not an eligible high school, earning a
 35 cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at an eligible postsecondary institution
 36 at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45 quarter
 37 hours or 30 semester hours, provided that such student shall be eligible to receive a
 38 retroactive HOPE scholarship for such student's freshman year to be paid at the end
 39 of the freshman year; ~~or~~

40 (C) In the case of an otherwise qualified student who:

41 (i) Did not graduate from high school or complete a home study program meeting the
 42 requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690 but received the general
 43 educational development (GED) diploma awarded by the Department of Technical
 44 and Adult Education, now known as the Technical College System of Georgia, after
 45 June 30, 1993; or

46 ~~(ii) Completed a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of~~
 47 ~~Code Section 20-2-690 in lieu of graduating from an eligible high school; or~~

48 ~~(iii)~~(ii) Graduated from a high school which is not an eligible high school,
 49 earning a score in the eighty-fifth percentile or higher nationally on a standardized
 50 college admission test, such as the SAT or ACT; ~~and~~ or

51 (D) In the case of an otherwise qualified student who completed a home study program
 52 meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690 in lieu of
 53 graduating from an eligible high school, earning a score of at least 1,200 combined
 54 critical reading score and math score on a single administration of the SAT or an ACT
 55 composite scale score of at least 26; and

56 (2) Meet enrollment standards by being admitted, enrolled, and classified as an
 57 undergraduate student in a matriculated status."

58 **SECTION 2.**

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