

House Bill 1207

By: Representatives Clark of the 104th, Coleman of the 97th, Riley of the 50th, Jacobs of the 80th, Williamson of the 111th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 3 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to educational programs, so as to define a certain term; to provide that
3 dual credit enrollment courses shall be treated with dignity equal to advancement placement
4 courses for purposes of determining eligibility for the HOPE scholarship; to provide for
5 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Part 3 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
9 relating to educational programs, is amended by revising Code Section 20-2-157, relating to
10 uniform reporting system for certain purposes and academic eligibility requirements to
11 receive HOPE scholarship, as follows:

12 "20-2-157.

13 (a) It is the intent of the General Assembly to establish a uniform reporting system to be
14 used as one of the criteria to determine eligibility of students seeking educational
15 scholarships, grants, or loan assistance administered by the Georgia Student Finance
16 Commission pursuant to Article 7 of Chapter 3 of this title.

17 (a.1) As used in this Code section, the term 'dual credit enrollment' means enrollment by
18 a student in degree level postsecondary coursework in core academic subjects in which an
19 agreement has been established between an eligible high school and an eligible
20 postsecondary institution wherein the student earns Carnegie units of credit that count
21 toward both high school graduation requirements and postsecondary coursework
22 requirements.

23 (b) Each school system and private school shall adopt the reporting system described in
24 this subsection for purposes of identifying and qualifying graduating seniors for the HOPE
25 scholarship program and other programs identified in this Code section:

26 (1) Each school system and private school shall transmit, in a manner and at times
27 prescribed by the Georgia Student Finance Commission, an electronic transcript of
28 courses and course grades for each graduating senior that reflects the complete high
29 school academic record of the student, including scores on any state tests required for
30 graduation, the grading scales used by the school system or private school for the time
31 periods referenced by the transcripts, and any other pertinent information as determined
32 by the Georgia Student Finance Commission. Each grade reported by a school system
33 or private school to the commission for the purpose of calculating the grade point average
34 for HOPE scholarship eligibility shall be the actual grade earned by the student, with no
35 weighting or addition of points by the local school system or private school;

36 (2) The Georgia Student Finance Commission shall calculate a grade point average for
37 the purpose of determining eligibility for the HOPE scholarship from these electronic
38 transcripts and shall notify students of their eligibility and high schools as to the
39 eligibility of students;

40 (3) For students otherwise qualified and enrolling as freshmen students in eligible public
41 or private postsecondary institutions for the first time on May 1, 2007, or thereafter,
42 except as otherwise provided in paragraph (3.1) of this subsection, the Georgia Student
43 Finance Commission shall calculate grade point averages for determining eligibility for
44 the HOPE scholarship and other scholarships referenced in this Code section as follows:

45 (A) For students receiving a college preparatory diploma, each grade for a student in
46 attempted coursework in English, mathematics, science, social studies, and foreign
47 language that would, if successfully completed, satisfy a core graduation requirement
48 for the college preparatory curriculum shall be equated to a grade on a 4.0 scale, such
49 that a grade of 'A' = 4.0, a grade of 'B' = 3.0, a grade of 'C' = 2.0, a grade of 'D' = 1.0,
50 and a grade of 'F' = 0; or

51 (B) For students receiving a career/technical diploma, each grade for a student in
52 attempted coursework in English, mathematics, science, and social studies that would,
53 if successfully completed, satisfy a core graduation requirement for the career/technical
54 curriculum shall be equated to a grade on a 4.0 scale, such that a grade of 'A' = 4.0, a
55 grade of 'B' = 3.0, a grade of 'C' = 2.0, a grade of 'D' = 1.0, and a grade of 'F' = 0.

56 Grades for coursework that is classified as advanced placement, dual credit enrollment,
57 or international baccalaureate shall be weighted uniformly by the Georgia Student
58 Finance Commission in calculating the overall grade point averages for students,
59 provided that the weighting of such course grades is uniformly applied to all students in
60 ~~the~~ this state taking the specified coursework. The sum of the equated grades shall be
61 divided by the number of course grades, adjusted for term length, to yield a grade point
62 average on a 4.0 scale;

63 (3.1) For students otherwise qualified and enrolling in the ninth grade for the first time
64 during the 2008-2009 school year and thereafter, the Georgia Student Finance
65 Commission shall calculate grade point averages for determining eligibility for the HOPE
66 scholarship and other scholarships referenced in this Code section by equating each grade
67 for a student in attempted coursework in English, mathematics, science, social studies,
68 and foreign language during the student's ninth, tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade year to
69 a grade on a 4.0 scale, such that a grade of 'A' = 4.0, a grade of 'B' = 3.0, a grade of 'C' =
70 2.0, a grade of 'D' = 1.0, and a grade of 'F' = 0. Grades for coursework that is classified
71 as advanced placement, dual credit enrollment, or international baccalaureate shall be
72 weighted uniformly by the Georgia Student Finance Commission in calculating the
73 overall grade point averages for students, provided that the weighting of such course
74 grades is uniformly applied to all students in ~~the~~ this state taking the specified
75 coursework. The sum of the equated grades shall be divided by the number of course
76 grades, adjusted for term length, to yield a grade point average on a 4.0 scale; and

77 (4) Qualification for the HOPE scholarship shall be determined from the grade point
78 average calculated either as set out in paragraph (3) of this subsection or as set out in
79 paragraph (3.1) of this subsection for students enrolling in the ninth grade for the first
80 time in a Georgia public school during the 2008-2009 school year and thereafter.
81 Beginning May 1, 2007, students with grade point averages equal to or in excess of 3.0
82 on the 4.0 scale with a college preparatory diploma shall meet achievement standards for
83 the HOPE scholarship; students receiving a career/technical diploma shall meet
84 achievement standards for the HOPE scholarship with a grade point average equal to or
85 in excess of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale. For students enrolling in the ninth grade for the first time
86 in a Georgia public school during the 2008-2009 school year and thereafter, such students
87 with grade point averages equal to or in excess of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale shall meet
88 achievement standards for the HOPE scholarship. This paragraph shall apply regardless
89 of when a student graduated from high school and regardless of such student's eligibility
90 status prior to May 1, 2007.

91 (c)(1) Beginning with the school year beginning after May 1, 2011, each school system
92 and private school shall adopt the reporting system described in this subsection for
93 purposes of determining potential eligibility for freshman, sophomore, and junior high
94 school students for the HOPE scholarship program and other programs identified in this
95 Code section.

96 (2) Each school system and private school shall transmit to the Georgia Student Finance
97 Commission, in such manner and at such times as the commission may prescribe, an
98 electronic transcript of courses and course grades for each freshman, sophomore, and
99 junior high school student that reflects the complete high school academic record of the

100 student, including scores on any state tests required for graduation, the grading scales
101 used by the school system or private school for the time periods referenced by the
102 transcripts, and any other pertinent information as determined by the Georgia Student
103 Finance Commission. Each grade reported by a school system or private school to the
104 commission for the purpose of calculating the grade point average for potential HOPE
105 scholarship eligibility shall be the actual grade earned by the student with no weighting
106 or addition of points by the school system or private school.

107 (3) The Georgia Student Finance Commission shall calculate a grade point average for
108 the purpose of determining eligibility for the HOPE scholarship from these electronic
109 transcripts and shall notify students of their potential eligibility and high schools as to the
110 potential eligibility of students.

111 (d) Beginning with students graduating from high school on or after May 1, 2015, in order
112 to be eligible to receive a HOPE scholarship, a student shall receive credit in at least two
113 courses prior to graduating from high school from the following categories:

114 (1) Advanced math, such as Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry, Math III, or an
115 equivalent or higher course;

116 (2) Advanced science, such as Chemistry, Physics, Biology II, or an equivalent or higher
117 course;

118 (3) Advanced placement courses in core subjects;

119 (3.1) Dual credit enrollment courses;

120 (4) International baccalaureate courses in core subjects;

121 (5) Courses taken at a unit of the University System of Georgia in core subjects where
122 such courses are not remedial and developmental courses, as defined in Code Section
123 20-3-519; or

124 (6) Advanced foreign language courses.

125 Students may take one or more courses in each category; provided, however, that a course
126 may only be counted one time. The Georgia Student Finance Commission shall be
127 authorized to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out the intent of this
128 subsection.

129 (e) Beginning with students graduating from high school on or after May 1, 2016, in order
130 to be eligible to receive a HOPE scholarship, a student shall receive credit in at least three
131 courses prior to graduating from high school from the following categories:

132 (1) Advanced math, such as Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry, Math III, or an
133 equivalent or higher course;

134 (2) Advanced science, such as Chemistry, Physics, Biology II, or an equivalent or higher
135 course;

136 (3) Advanced placement courses in core subjects;

137 (3.1) Dual credit enrollment courses;

138 (4) International baccalaureate in core courses;

139 (5) Courses taken at a unit of the University System of Georgia in core subjects where
140 such courses are not remedial and developmental courses, as defined in Code Section
141 20-3-519; or

142 (6) Advanced foreign language courses.

143 Students may take one or more courses in each category; provided, however, that a course
144 may only be counted one time. The Georgia Student Finance Commission shall be
145 authorized to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out the intent of this
146 subsection.

147 (f) Beginning with students graduating from high school on or after May 1, 2017, in order
148 to be eligible to receive a HOPE scholarship, a student shall receive credit in at least four
149 courses prior to graduating from high school from the following categories:

150 (1) Advanced math, such as Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry, Math III, or an
151 equivalent or higher course;

152 (2) Advanced science, such as Chemistry, Physics, Biology II, or an equivalent or higher
153 course;

154 (3) Advanced placement courses in core subjects;

155 (3.1) Dual credit enrollment courses;

156 (4) International baccalaureate in core courses;

157 (5) Courses taken at a unit of the University System of Georgia in core subjects where
158 such courses are not remedial and developmental courses, as defined in Code Section
159 20-3-519; or

160 (6) Advanced foreign language courses.

161 Students may take one or more courses in each category; provided, however, that a course
162 may only be counted one time. The Georgia Student Finance Commission shall be
163 authorized to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out the intent of this
164 subsection."

165 **SECTION 2.**

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