

House Bill 697 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Evans of the 42<sup>nd</sup>, Ehrhart of the 36<sup>th</sup>, Abrams of the 89<sup>th</sup>, Riley of the 50<sup>th</sup>, Nimmer of the 178<sup>th</sup>, 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 provide for Zell Miller Grant  
3 Scholars; to provide for eligibility criteria to be a Zell Miller Grant Scholar; to revise  
4 terminology relating to Zell Miller Scholarship Scholars; to provide for related matters; to  
5 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 in Code Section 20-3-519, relating to  
10 definitions, by adding a new paragraph and revising paragraph (27) as follows:

11 "(26.1) 'Zell Miller Grant Scholar' means a student that has met the applicable eligibility  
12 requirements to receive a HOPE grant in accordance with Code Section 20-3-519.5 and  
13 earned a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.5 at the end of any quarter or  
14 semester in which the student has attended courses toward a diploma or certificate."

15 (27) 'Zell Miller Scholarship Scholar' means a student that has met the applicable  
16 eligibility requirements to receive a HOPE scholarship in accordance with Code Section  
17 20-3-519.2 and:

18 (A) As an incoming freshman:

19 (i) Having graduated from an eligible high school with a grade point average of at  
20 least 3.7 calculated in accordance with Code Section 20-2-157 and having received  
21 a score of at least 1,200 combined critical reading score and math score on a single  
22 administration of the SAT or an ACT composite scale score of at least 26;

23 (ii) Having graduated from an eligible high school as a valedictorian or salutatorian;  
24 or

25 (iii) Having completed a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection  
26 (c) of Code Section 20-2-690, having received a score of at least 1,200 combined

27 critical reading score and math score on a single administration of the SAT or an ACT  
 28 composite scale score of at least 26, and earning a cumulative grade point average of  
 29 at least 3.3 at an eligible postsecondary institution at the end of the quarter or semester  
 30 in which the student has attempted 45 quarter hours or 30 semester hours, provided  
 31 that such student shall be eligible to receive a retroactive scholarship for such  
 32 student's freshman year to be paid at the end of the freshman year; and

33 (B) As a sophomore, junior, senior, or first professional student who met the  
 34 requirements of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, having a cumulative grade point  
 35 average of at least 3.3 at the checkpoints set forth in paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of  
 36 Code Section 20-3-519.2. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a student that entered an  
 37 eligible postsecondary institution as a freshman between July 1, 2007, and June 30,  
 38 2011, and met the requirements of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph may become a  
 39 Zell Miller Scholarship Scholar as a sophomore, junior, senior, or first professional  
 40 student.

41 A student that loses eligibility to be a Zell Miller Scholarship Scholar for any reason may  
 42 regain eligibility one time if the student requalifies at one of the checkpoints set forth in  
 43 paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of Code Section 20-3-519.2."

#### 44 **SECTION 2.**

45 Said part is further amended in Code Section 20-3-519.2, relating to eligibility requirements  
 46 for a HOPE scholarship, by revising subsection (f) as follows:

47 "(f) For each semester of eligibility, Zell Miller Scholarship Scholars shall be awarded an  
 48 amount in addition to the HOPE award amount as follows:

49 (1) If attending an eligible public institution, an amount equal to the difference between  
 50 the HOPE award amount and the then current academic year standard undergraduate  
 51 tuition amount at the institution to be paid; and

52 (2) If attending an eligible private institution, an amount equal to the difference between  
 53 the HOPE award amount and the HOPE tuition payment."

#### 54 **SECTION 3.**

55 Said part is further amended in Code Section 20-3-519.5, relating to eligibility requirements  
 56 for a HOPE grant, by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

57 "(d.1) For each semester or quarter following a semester or quarter that it is determined  
 58 that a student is a Zell Miller Grant Scholar, a student shall be awarded an amount in  
 59 addition to the HOPE award amount equal to the difference between the HOPE award  
 60 amount and the then current academic year standard undergraduate tuition amount at the  
 61 institution to be paid or the exceptional tuition rate amount in effect on January 1, 2014,

62 for programs with exceptional tuition rates in effect on January 1, 2014. Eligibility to be  
63 a Zell Miller Grant Scholar shall be determined on a semester or quarter basis and paid  
64 for the next semester or quarter in which a student is enrolled. Notwithstanding the  
65 foregoing, a Zell Miller Grant Scholar shall also receive one semester or quarter of  
66 retroactive payment if the student was not eligible to be a Zell Miller Grant Scholar  
67 because he or she had no cumulative grade point average."

68 **SECTION 3.**

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