

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Code Section 20-3-519 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to definitions relative to HOPE scholarships and grants, so as to provide for eligibility as a Zell Miller Scholarship Scholar for students who do not qualify as freshmen; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Code Section 20-3-519 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to definitions relative to HOPE scholarships and grants, is amended by revising paragraph (27) as follows:

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

(A) As an incoming freshman:

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

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

(iii) Having completed a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690, having received a score of at least 1,200 combined critical reading score and math score on a single administration of the SAT or an ACT composite scale score of at least 26, and earning a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.3 at an eligible postsecondary institution at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45 quarter hours or 30 semester hours, provided that such student shall be eligible to receive a retroactive scholarship for such student's freshman year to be paid at the end of the freshman year; and

(B) As a sophomore, junior, senior, or first professional student:

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

(ii) Who did not meet the requirements of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, having a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.3 at two consecutive checkpoints set forth in paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of Code Section 20-3-519.2.

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

SECTION 2.

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