

Senate Bill 13

By: Senators Thompson of the 5th, Butler of the 55th, Davenport of the 44th, Jones of the 10th, Jackson of the 2nd 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 that the amount of a
3 HOPE scholarship shall be accepted as full payment of tuition by University System of
4 Georgia institutions; to provide that the amount of a HOPE grant shall be accepted as full
5 payment of tuition by institutions of the Technical College System of Georgia; to provide for
6 related matters; to provide for a contingent effective date and contingent repeal; to repeal
7 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Part 7 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
11 relating to HOPE scholarships and grants, is amended by repealing in their entirety
12 paragraphs (26.1) and (27) of Code Section 20-3-519, relating to definitions regarding HOPE
13 scholarships and grants.

14 **SECTION 2.**

15 Said part is further amended by revising subsection (e) and repealing subsection (f) of Code
16 Section 20-3-519.2, relating to eligibility requirements for a HOPE scholarship, as follows:
17 "(e) Subject to the amounts appropriated by the General Assembly and provisions relating
18 to the Lottery for Education Account in Code Section 50-27-13, a HOPE scholarship
19 awarded under this Code section shall be equal to the HOPE award amount. Such HOPE
20 scholarship award shall be accepted by all institutions of the University System of Georgia
21 as full payment for tuition for the courses taken by a qualifying student at any such
22 institution during such fiscal year, and such student shall not be charged any additional
23 amount for tuition for such courses."

24 **SECTION 3.**

25 Said part is further amended by revising subsection (d) and repealing subsection (d.1) of
 26 Code Section 20-3-519.5, relating to eligibility requirements for a HOPE grant at a branch
 27 of the Technical College System of Georgia, as follows:

28 "(d) Subject to the amounts appropriated by the General Assembly and provisions relating
 29 to the Lottery for Education Account in Code Section 50-27-13, a HOPE grant awarded
 30 under this Code section shall equal the HOPE award amount. Such grants shall be
 31 accepted by all institutions of the Technical College System of Georgia as full payment for
 32 tuition for the courses taken by a qualifying student at any such institution during such
 33 fiscal year, and such student shall not be charged any additional amount for tuition for such
 34 courses."

35 **SECTION 4.**

36 Said part is further amended by revising Code Section 20-3-519.10, relating to application
 37 of HOPE scholarship and HOPE grant, as follows:

38 "20-3-519.10.

39 ~~A Neither a HOPE scholarship and nor a HOPE grant may be applied to any portion of a~~
 40 ~~student's tuition. In no case shall a HOPE scholarship or HOPE grant exceed a student's~~
 41 ~~tuition."~~

42 **SECTION 5.**

43 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2017, provided that an amendment to the State
 44 Constitution is passed by the General Assembly and ratified by the electors at the November,
 45 2015, general election authorizing the General Assembly by general law to establish the
 46 amount of tuition that may be charged to students receiving lottery funded scholarships and
 47 grants and attending colleges and universities operated by the Board of Regents of the
 48 University System of Georgia or institutions operated by the Technical College System of
 49 Georgia. Otherwise, this Act shall be repealed by operation of law on January 1, 2017.

50 **SECTION 6.**

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