

House Bill 798

By: Representatives Chandler of the 105<sup>th</sup>, Teasley of the 37<sup>th</sup>, Stovall of the 74<sup>th</sup>, Dudgeon of the 25<sup>th</sup>, Barr of the 103<sup>rd</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 eligibility for Zell  
3 Miller Scholarships for home study students who receive certain scores on standardized  
4 college admission tests; to revise eligibility requirements for HOPE scholarships for entering  
5 freshmen students who are home study students regarding scores on standardized college  
6 admission tests; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
7 purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 style="text-align:center">**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 in Code Section 20-3-519, relating to  
12 definitions, by revising paragraph (27) as follows:

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

16 (A) As an incoming freshman:

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

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

22 **or**

23 (iii) Having completed a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection  
24 (c) of Code Section 20-2-690, having received a score of at least 1,350 combined  
25 critical reading score and math score on a single administration of the SAT or an ACT  
26 composite scale score of at least 29; or

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

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

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

46 **SECTION 2.**

47 Said part is further amended in Code Section 20-3-519.2, relating to eligibility requirements  
 48 for a HOPE scholarship at a public postsecondary institution, by revising subsection (a) as  
 49 follows:

50 "(a) To be eligible for a HOPE scholarship, an entering freshman student seeking an  
 51 associate or baccalaureate degree at an eligible postsecondary institution shall, in addition  
 52 to meeting the residency requirements set forth in subsection (a) of Code Section  
 53 20-3-519.1:

54 (1) Meet achievement standards by:

55 (A) Having graduated from an eligible high school while meeting the curriculum  
 56 requirements of his or her program of study in 1993 or thereafter and meeting the  
 57 requirements set out in the applicable subsection and paragraph of Code Section  
 58 20-2-157;

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

60 (i) Did not graduate from high school or complete a home study program meeting the  
 61 requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690, having received the general  
 62 educational development (GED) diploma awarded by the Department of Technical

63 and Adult Education, now known as the Technical College System of Georgia, after  
 64 June 30, 1993, provided that such student shall only be eligible for a HOPE  
 65 scholarship pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section;

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

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

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

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

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

87 ~~(iii)~~(ii) Graduated from a high school which is not an eligible high school,  
 88 earning a score in the eightieth percentile or higher nationally on a standardized college  
 89 admission test, such as the SAT or ACT; ~~and~~ or

90 (D) In the case of an otherwise qualified student who completed a home study program  
 91 meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690 in lieu of  
 92 graduating from an eligible high school, earning a score in the seventy-fifth percentile  
 93 or higher nationally on a standardized college admission test, such as the SAT or ACT;  
 94 and

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

97 **SECTION 3.**

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