

The House Committee on Higher Education offers the following substitute to HB 798:

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 and students graduating from ineligible high  
4 schools who receive certain scores on standardized college admission tests; to revise  
5 eligibility requirements for HOPE scholarships for entering freshmen students who are home  
6 study students or students who graduated from ineligible high schools regarding scores on  
7 standardized college admission tests; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting  
8 laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

11 Part 7 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
12 relating to HOPE scholarships and grants, is amended in Code Section 20-3-519, relating to  
13 definitions, by revising paragraph (27) as follows:

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

17 (A) As an incoming freshman:

18 (i) Having graduated from an eligible high school with a grade point average of at  
19 least 3.7 calculated in accordance with Code Section 20-2-157 and having received  
20 a score of ~~at least 1,200~~ in the eightieth percentile or higher on the ACT or on the  
21 combined critical reading score and math score portions on a single administration of  
22 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 or having graduated from a high school which is not an

27 eligible high school, having received a score in the ninety-third percentile or higher  
 28 on the ACT or on the combined critical reading and math portions on a single  
 29 administration of the SAT; or

30 ~~(iii)~~(iv) Having completed a home study program meeting the requirements of  
 31 subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690 or having graduated from a high school  
 32 which is not an eligible high school, having received a score of at least 1,200 in the  
 33 eightieth percentile or higher on the ACT or on the combined critical reading score  
 34 and math score portions on a single administration of the SAT ~~or an ACT composite~~  
 35 ~~scale score of at least 26~~, and earning a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.3  
 36 at an eligible postsecondary institution at the end of the quarter or semester in which  
 37 the student has attempted 45 quarter hours or 30 semester hours, provided that such  
 38 student shall be eligible to receive a retroactive scholarship for such student's  
 39 freshman year to be paid at the end of the freshman year; and

40 (B) As a sophomore, junior, senior, or first professional student who met the  
 41 requirements of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, having a cumulative grade point  
 42 average of at least 3.3 at the checkpoints set forth in paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of  
 43 Code Section 20-3-519.2. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a student who entered an  
 44 eligible postsecondary institution as a freshman between July 1, 2007, and June 30,  
 45 2011, and met the requirements of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph may become a  
 46 Zell Miller Scholarship Scholar as a sophomore, junior, senior, or first professional  
 47 student.

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

51 **SECTION 2.**

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

54 "(a) To be eligible for a HOPE scholarship, an entering freshman student seeking an  
 55 associate or baccalaureate degree at an eligible postsecondary institution shall, in addition  
 56 to meeting the residency requirements set forth in subsection (a) of Code Section  
 57 20-3-519.1:

58 (1) Meet achievement standards by:

59 (A) Having graduated from an eligible high school while meeting the curriculum  
 60 requirements of his or her program of study in 1993 or thereafter and meeting the  
 61 requirements set out in the applicable subsection and paragraph of Code Section  
 62 20-2-157;

- 63 (B) In the case of a student who is otherwise qualified but:
- 64 (i) Did not graduate from high school or complete a home study program meeting the
- 65 requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690, having received the general
- 66 educational development (GED) diploma awarded by the Department of Technical
- 67 and Adult Education, now known as the Technical College System of Georgia, after
- 68 June 30, 1993, provided that such student shall only be eligible for a HOPE
- 69 scholarship pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section;
- 70 (ii) Completed a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of
- 71 Code Section 20-2-690 in lieu of graduating from an eligible high school, earning a
- 72 cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at an eligible postsecondary institution
- 73 at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45 quarter
- 74 hours or 30 semester hours, provided that such student shall be eligible to receive a
- 75 retroactive HOPE scholarship for such student's freshman year to be paid at the end
- 76 of the freshman year; or
- 77 (iii) Graduated from a high school which is not an eligible high school, earning a
- 78 cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at an eligible postsecondary institution
- 79 at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45 quarter
- 80 hours or 30 semester hours, provided that such student shall be eligible to receive a
- 81 retroactive HOPE scholarship for such student's freshman year to be paid at the end
- 82 of the freshman year; ~~or~~
- 83 (C) In the case of an otherwise qualified student who:
- 84 (i) Did not graduate from high school or complete a home study program meeting the
- 85 requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690 but received the general
- 86 educational development (GED) diploma awarded by the Department of Technical
- 87 and Adult Education, now known as the Technical College System of Georgia, after
- 88 June 30, 1993;
- 89 (ii) Completed a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of
- 90 Code Section 20-2-690 in lieu of graduating from an eligible high school; or
- 91 (iii) Graduated from a high school which is not an eligible high school,
- 92 earning a score in the ~~eightieth~~ seventy-fifth percentile or higher nationally on a
- 93 standardized college admission test, such as the SAT or ACT; and
- 94 (2) Meet enrollment standards by being admitted, enrolled, and classified as an
- 95 undergraduate student in a matriculated status."

96 **SECTION 3.**

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