

The Senate Committee on Higher Education offered 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 **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 on the combined critical reading score and math score
21 portions on a single administration of the SAT administered prior to March 1, 2016,
22 or on the total score on a single administration of the SAT administered on or after
23 March 1, 2016, or an ACT composite scale score of at least 26;

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

25 **or**

26 (iii) Having completed a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection
 27 (c) of Code Section 20-2-690 or having graduated from a high school which is not an
 28 eligible high school, having received a score in the ninety-third percentile or higher
 29 on the ACT, on the combined critical reading and math portions on a single
 30 administration of the SAT administered prior to March 1, 2016, or on the total score
 31 on a single administration of the SAT administered on or after March 1, 2016; or
 32 ~~(iii)~~(iv) Having completed a home study program meeting the requirements of
 33 subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690 or having graduated from a high school
 34 which is not an eligible high school, having received a score of at least 1,200 on the
 35 combined critical reading score and math score portions on a single administration of
 36 the SAT administered prior to March 1, 2016, or on the total score on a single
 37 administration of the SAT administered on or after March 1, 2016, or an ACT
 38 composite scale score of at least 26, and earning a cumulative grade point average of
 39 at least 3.3 at an eligible postsecondary institution at the end of the quarter or semester
 40 in which the student has attempted 45 quarter hours or 30 semester hours, provided
 41 that such student shall be eligible to receive a retroactive scholarship for such
 42 student's freshman year to be paid at the end of the freshman year; and

43 (B) As a sophomore, junior, senior, or first professional student who met the
 44 requirements of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, having a cumulative grade point
 45 average of at least 3.3 at the checkpoints set forth in paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of
 46 Code Section 20-3-519.2. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a student who entered an
 47 eligible postsecondary institution as a freshman between July 1, 2007, and June 30,
 48 2011, and met the requirements of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph may become a
 49 Zell Miller Scholarship Scholar as a sophomore, junior, senior, or first professional
 50 student.

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

54 SECTION 2.

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

57 "(a) To be eligible for a HOPE scholarship, an entering freshman student seeking an
 58 associate or baccalaureate degree at an eligible postsecondary institution shall, in addition
 59 to meeting the residency requirements set forth in subsection (a) of Code Section
 60 20-3-519.1:

61 (1) Meet achievement standards by:

- 62 (A) Having graduated from an eligible high school while meeting the curriculum
 63 requirements of his or her program of study in 1993 or thereafter and meeting the
 64 requirements set out in the applicable subsection and paragraph of Code Section
 65 20-2-157;
- 66 (B) In the case of a student who is otherwise qualified but:
- 67 (i) Did not graduate from high school or complete a home study program meeting the
 68 requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690, having received the general
 69 educational development (GED) diploma awarded by the Department of Technical
 70 and Adult Education, now known as the Technical College System of Georgia, after
 71 June 30, 1993, provided that such student shall only be eligible for a HOPE
 72 scholarship pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section;
- 73 (ii) Completed a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of
 74 Code Section 20-2-690 in lieu of graduating from an eligible high school, earning a
 75 cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at an eligible postsecondary institution
 76 at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45 quarter
 77 hours or 30 semester hours, provided that such student shall be eligible to receive a
 78 retroactive HOPE scholarship for such student's freshman year to be paid at the end
 79 of the freshman year; or
- 80 (iii) Graduated from a high school which is not an eligible high school, earning a
 81 cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at an eligible postsecondary institution
 82 at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45 quarter
 83 hours or 30 semester hours, provided that such student shall be eligible to receive a
 84 retroactive HOPE scholarship for such student's freshman year to be paid at the end
 85 of the freshman year; or
- 86 (C) In the case of an otherwise qualified student who:
- 87 (i) Did not graduate from high school or complete a home study program meeting the
 88 requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690 but received the general
 89 educational development (GED) diploma awarded by the Department of Technical
 90 and Adult Education, now known as the Technical College System of Georgia, after
 91 June 30, 1993;
- 92 (ii) Completed a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of
 93 Code Section 20-2-690 in lieu of graduating from an eligible high school; or
- 94 (iii) Graduated from a high school which is not an eligible high school,
 95 earning a score in the ~~eightieth~~ seventy-fifth percentile or higher nationally on a
 96 standardized college admission test, such as the SAT or ACT; and
- 97 (2) Meet enrollment standards by being admitted, enrolled, and classified as an
 98 undergraduate student in a matriculated status."

99

SECTION 3.

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