

## House Bill 179

By: Representatives Raffensperger of the 50<sup>th</sup>, Chandler of the 105<sup>th</sup>, Jasperse of the 11<sup>th</sup>, Cantrell of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Casas of the 107<sup>th</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 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 in the eightieth percentile or higher on the ACT or on the~~  
21         combined critical reading and math portions on a single administration of the SAT  
22         administered prior to March 1, 2016, or on the total score on a single administration  
23         of the SAT administered on or after March 1, 2016, or an ACT composite scale score  
24         of at least 26;

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

(iii) Having completed a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690 or having graduated from a high school which is not an eligible high school, having received a score in the ~~ninety-third eighty~~ percentile or higher on the ACT; ~~or~~ on the combined critical reading and math portions on a single administration of the SAT administered prior to March 1, 2016, ~~or on the total score on a single administration of the SAT administered on or after March 1, 2016;~~ or

(iv) Having completed a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690 or having graduated from a high school which is not an eligible high school, having received a score ~~of at least 1,200 in the eightieth percentile or higher on the ACT or~~ on the combined critical reading and math portions on a single administration of the SAT ~~administered prior to March 1, 2016, or on the total score on a single administration of the SAT administered on or after March 1, 2016, 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 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, a student 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.

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

## SECTION 2.

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

"20-3-519.2.

60 (a) To be eligible for a HOPE scholarship, an entering freshman student seeking an  
61 associate or baccalaureate degree at an eligible postsecondary institution shall, in addition

62 to meeting the residency requirements set forth in subsection (a) of Code  
63 Section 20-3-519.1:

64 (1) Meet achievement standards by:

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

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

70 (i) Did not graduate from high school or complete a home study program meeting the  
71 requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690, having received the general  
72 educational development (GED) diploma awarded by the Department of Technical  
73 and Adult Education, now known as the Technical College System of Georgia, after  
74 June 30, 1993, provided that such student shall only be eligible for a HOPE  
75 scholarship pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section;

76 (ii) Completed a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of  
77 Code Section 20-2-690 in lieu of graduating from 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 (iii) Graduated from a high school which is not an eligible high school, earning a  
84 cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at an eligible postsecondary institution  
85 at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45 quarter  
86 hours or 30 semester hours, provided that such student shall be eligible to receive a  
87 retroactive HOPE scholarship for such student's freshman year to be paid at the end  
88 of the freshman year; or

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

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

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

97 (iii) Graduated from a high school which is not an eligible high school,

98 earning a score in the ~~seventy-fifth~~ eightieth percentile or higher nationally on a  
99 standardized college admission test, such as the SAT or ACT; and  
100 (2) Meet enrollment standards by being admitted, enrolled, and classified as an  
101 undergraduate student in a matriculated status."

102 **SECTION 3.**

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