

Senate Bill 113

By: Senator McKoon of the 29th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to scholarships, loans, and grants for postsecondary education, so as to provide for  
3 automatic eligibility for a HOPE scholarship to the children of certain public officials who  
4 have been killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty; to provide for related matters;  
5 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
9 scholarships, loans, and grants for postsecondary education, is amended in Code  
10 Section 20-3-400.2, relating to eligibility, repayment period, maximum amount, interest rate,  
11 and requirements for GOT Student Loans, by revising subsection (e.1) as follows:

12 "(e.1) The annual interest rate for any GOT Student Loan shall be converted to 1 percent  
13 retroactive to the origination date of the GOT Student Loan for any student that has met the  
14 applicable eligibility requirements to receive a HOPE scholarship under Code Section  
15 20-3-519.2 or 20-3-519.3 or a HOPE grant under Code Section 20-3-519.5 as follows:

16 (1) If attending an eligible public institution, an amount equal to the difference between  
17 the HOPE award amount and the then current academic year standard undergraduate  
18 tuition amount at the institution to be paid; and

19 (2) If attending an eligible private institution, an amount equal to the difference between  
20 the HOPE award amount and the HOPE tuition payment.

21 The provisions of this subsection shall be subject to funding."

22 **SECTION 2.**

23 Said article is further amended by revising paragraph (15) of Code Section 20-3-519, relating  
24 to definitions relative to the HOPE scholarship, as follows:

25 "(15) 'HOPE scholarship' means a Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally scholarship  
 26 for education awarded in accordance with Code Section 20-3-519.2 or 20-3-519.3."

27 **SECTION 3.**

28 Said article is further amended by revising Code Section 20-3-519.3, which was previously  
 29 reserved, as follows:

30 "20-3-519.3.

31 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

32 (1) 'Firefighter' means a person whose duties include extinguishing fires or investigating  
 33 cases of suspected arson.

34 (2) 'Law enforcement officer' means any officer or official who has the power of arrest  
 35 and who is responsible for enforcing the criminal laws of this state or its political  
 36 subdivisions.

37 (3) 'Permanent disability' or 'permanently disabled' means physical incapacity to perform  
 38 the duties of a law enforcement officer, firefighter, or prison guard, provided that such  
 39 incapacity is likely to be indefinite based upon current medical standards.

40 (4) 'Prison guard' means a person whose principal duties relate to supervision and  
 41 incarceration of persons accused or convicted of violation of the criminal laws of this  
 42 state or any county, municipality, or other political subdivision thereof.

43 (b) Notwithstanding the requirements of Code Section 20-3-519.2, any entering freshman  
 44 student seeking an associate or baccalaureate degree at an eligible postsecondary institution  
 45 shall be eligible for a HOPE scholarship so long as such student:

46 (1) Meets the requirements of Code Section 20-3-519.1; and

47 (2) Is the child, either natural or adopted, of a law enforcement officer, firefighter, or  
 48 prison guard who, while an employee, either full-time or part-time, or an officer or  
 49 official, whether elected or appointed, of this state or any county, municipality,  
 50 department, board, bureau, branch, agency, commission, authority, or political  
 51 subdivision of this state, was permanently disabled or killed in the line of duty or while  
 52 performing the duties to which he or she was assigned in the normal course of  
 53 employment. If such child is the adopted child of any such law enforcement officer,  
 54 firefighter, or prison guard, such child must have been adopted and any final order of  
 55 adoption issued prior to the date of the accident or event causing the death or permanent  
 56 disability of his or her parent. Reserved."

57 **SECTION 4.**

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