

House Bill 376

By: Representatives Lopez of the 99<sup>th</sup>, Metze of the 55<sup>th</sup>, Waites of the 60<sup>th</sup>, Park of the 101<sup>st</sup>,  
and Dreyer of the 59<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-3-519.2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 eligibility requirements for the HOPE scholarship, so as to eliminate a provision making  
3 students ineligible for the scholarship seven years after high school graduation or its  
4 equivalent; to provide for a short title; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting  
5 laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "College Completion Access Act."

9 **SECTION 2.**

10 Code Section 20-3-519.2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to eligibility  
11 requirements for the HOPE scholarship, is amended by revising subsection (d) as follows:

12 "(d) A student may receive the HOPE scholarship until the first of these events:

13 (1) The student has earned a baccalaureate or first professional degree; or

14 (2) The student has attempted at any postsecondary institution a total of 190 quarter  
15 hours or 127 semester hours; ~~or~~

16 ~~(3) Beginning with those students receiving a HOPE scholarship for the first time on or~~  
17 ~~after July 1, 2011, seven years from a student's graduation from high school or the~~  
18 ~~equivalent thereof as determined by the Georgia Student Finance Commission in its rules~~  
19 ~~and regulations; provided, however, that for a student who serves in the military during~~  
20 ~~such seven-year period, any such military service served as active duty shall not count~~  
21 ~~against the seven-year period. A student that is ineligible to receive a HOPE scholarship~~  
22 ~~pursuant to this paragraph but who received the HOPE scholarship during the 2010-2011~~  
23 ~~academic year shall continue to be eligible for the HOPE scholarship until June 30, 2015,~~  
24 ~~as long as such student meets all other eligibility requirements, including, but not limited~~  
25 ~~to, paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection."~~

26

**SECTION 3.**

27 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.