

Senate Bill 186

By: Senators Tippins of the 37th, Millar of the 40th, Brass of the 28th, Sims of the 12th, Rhett of the 33rd and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, so as to
2 clarify language relating to the effect of dual credit courses on HOPE scholarship and grant
3 applicability; to provide that students who earned a high school diploma through certain dual
4 credit coursework are eligible for a HOPE grant toward an associate degree; to provide for
5 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, is amended in
9 Code Section 20-2-161.3, relating to the "Move on When Ready Act" and dual credit
10 courses, by revising subsection (g) as follows:

11 "(g) Hours for dual credit courses taken at or through an eligible postsecondary institution
12 pursuant to this Code section by an eligible high school student shall not count against any
13 the maximum hourly caps which may be applicable for purposes of HOPE scholarships or
14 grants included in paragraph (2) of subsection (d) of Code Section 20-3-519.2 or
15 subsection (e) of Code Section 20-3-519.5. Hours for dual credit courses taken at or
16 through an eligible postsecondary institution pursuant to this Code section by an eligible
17 high school student shall count against the intermediate hourly checkpoints included in
18 subparagraph (b)(1)(A) and subsection (c) of Code Section 20-3-519.2 and in paragraph (1)
19 of subsection (a) of Code Section 20-3-519.5."

20 **SECTION 2.**

21 Said title is further amended in Code Section 20-3-519.5, relating to eligibility requirements
22 for a HOPE grant, by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

23 "(a.1) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this Code section, a student seeking an associate
24 degree at a branch of the Technical College System of Georgia or a unit of the University

25 System of Georgia who received a high school diploma pursuant to Code
26 Section 20-2-149.2 through completion of:

27 (1) A technical college diploma program and all postsecondary academic education and
28 technical education and training prerequisites for any state, national, or industry
29 occupational certifications or licenses required to work in the field; or

30 (2) At least two technical college certificate of credit programs in one specific career
31 pathway and all postsecondary academic education and technical education and training
32 prerequisites for any state, national, or industry occupational certifications or licenses
33 required to work in the field as determined by the Technical College System of Georgia
34 shall be eligible for a HOPE grant as long as he or she meets the residency requirements
35 set forth in subsection (a) of Code Section 20-3-519.1 and the requirements of
36 paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a) of this Code section."

37 **SECTION 3.**

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