

House Bill 447

By: Representatives Evans of the 42<sup>nd</sup>, Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, Epps of the 144<sup>th</sup>, Smyre of the 135<sup>th</sup>, and Holcomb of the 81<sup>st</sup>

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 retroactive  
3 payments for the difference between HOPE scholarships and the full cost of tuition for  
4 students who graduate on time and earn an associate degree; to provide for retroactive  
5 payments for the difference between HOPE grants and the full cost of tuition for students  
6 who graduate on time and earn a diploma or certificate; to provide for definitions; to provide  
7 for automatic repeal; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
8 purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 style="text-align:center">**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 20-3-519.2, relating  
13 to eligibility requirements for a HOPE scholarship, by adding a new subsection to read as  
14 follows:

15 "(g)(1) A student who receives an associate degree on time at an eligible public  
16 postsecondary institution shall be retroactively awarded, upon receipt of such associate  
17 degree, for each semester or quarter that such student received the HOPE scholarship, up  
18 to 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours, an amount equal to the difference between the  
19 HOPE award amount and the academic year standard undergraduate tuition amount at the  
20 eligible public postsecondary institution at the time of each such semester or quarter.

21 (2) As used in this subsection, the term 'on time' means the number of consecutive  
22 semesters or quarters required to complete the coursework for a specific associate degree  
23 if taking a full-time load plus one additional semester or quarter.

24 (3) This subsection shall stand repealed on June 30, 2025."

25 **SECTION 2.**

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

28 "(d.2)(1) A student who receives a diploma or certificate on time from a branch of the  
29 Technical College System of Georgia or a unit of the University System of Georgia shall  
30 be retroactively awarded, upon receipt of such diploma or certificate, for each semester  
31 or quarter that such student received the HOPE grant, an amount equal to the difference  
32 between the HOPE award amount and the academic year standard undergraduate tuition  
33 amount at the institution at the time of each such semester or quarter.

34 (2) As used in this subsection, the term 'on time' means the number of consecutive  
35 semesters or quarters required to complete the coursework for a specific diploma or  
36 certificate if taking a full-time load plus one additional semester or quarter.

37 (3) This subsection shall stand repealed on June 30, 2025."

38 **SECTION 3.**

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