

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

**AS PASSED SENATE**

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

**AN ACT**

1 To amend Code Section 20-3-519.5 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 eligibility requirements for a HOPE grant, so as to provide that students who earned a high  
3 school diploma through certain dual credit coursework are eligible for a HOPE grant toward  
4 an associate degree; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
5 purposes.

6 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 20-3-519.5 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to eligibility  
9 requirements for a HOPE grant, is amended by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

10 "(a.1) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this Code section, a student seeking an associate  
11 degree at a branch of the Technical College System of Georgia who received a high school  
12 diploma pursuant to Code Section 20-2-149.2 through completion of:

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

16 (2) At least two technical college certificate of credit programs in one specific career  
17 pathway and all postsecondary academic education and technical education and training  
18 prerequisites for any state, national, or industry occupational certifications or licenses  
19 required to work in the field as determined by the Technical College System of Georgia  
20 shall be eligible for a HOPE grant as long as he or she meets the residency requirements  
21 set forth in subsection (a) of Code Section 20-3-519.1 and the requirements of  
22 paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a) of this Code section. The HOPE grant shall be  
23 used to cover the cost of up to 30 degree hours to obtain an associate degree."

24 **SECTION 2.**

25 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.