

House Bill 291

By: Representatives Dempsey of the 13<sup>th</sup>, Martin of the 49<sup>th</sup>, Smyre of the 135<sup>th</sup>, Ehrhart of the 36<sup>th</sup>, and Parrish of the 158<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-3-411 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 definitions regarding tuition equalization grants at private colleges and universities, so as to  
3 expand the definition of "approved school"; to provide for related matters; to provide for  
4 legislative findings; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 WHEREAS, the General Assembly is committed to addressing the health care workforce  
8 shortage in Georgia, which includes having a sufficient number of quality nurses; and

9 WHEREAS, to increase the number of high-quality nurses in Georgia, crucial elements  
10 include providing financial assistance and removing impediments to practicing nursing.

11 **SECTION 2.**

12 Code Section 20-3-411 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to definitions  
13 regarding tuition equalization grants at private colleges and universities, is amended by  
14 revising subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2) as follows:

H. B. 291

15       "(B)(i) A qualified proprietary institution of higher education located in this state  
16       which is a baccalaureate degree-granting institution of higher education; which is  
17       accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; which is not a Bible  
18       school or college (or, at the graduate level, a school or college of theology or  
19       divinity); which admits as regular students only persons who have a high school  
20       diploma, a general educational development (GED) diploma, or a degree from an  
21       accredited postsecondary institution; whose students are eligible to participate in the  
22       federal Pell Grant program; which has been reviewed and approved for operation and  
23       for receipt of tuition equalization grant funds by the Georgia Nonpublic  
24       Postsecondary Education Commission; which is domiciled and incorporated in the  
25       State of Georgia; which has been in existence in the State of Georgia for at least ten  
26       years; and which met all of the requirements of this subparagraph by January 1, 2011;  
27       provided, however, that the criteria for approval for receipt of tuition equalization  
28       grant funds shall include but not be limited to areas of course study, quality of  
29       instruction, student placement rate, research and library sources, faculty, support staff,  
30       financial resources, physical plant facilities resources, and support and equipment  
31       resources.

32       (ii) A qualified proprietary institution of higher education located in this state which  
33       is a baccalaureate degree-granting institution of higher education; which is accredited  
34       by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or by a regional accrediting  
35       agency recognized by the United States Department of Education; which is accredited  
36       by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education; which has a National Council  
37       Licensure Examination four-year average passage rate of at least 85 percent; which  
38       is not a Bible school or college (or, at the graduate level, a school or college of  
39       theology or divinity); which admits as regular students only persons who have a high  
40       school diploma, a general educational development (GED) diploma, or a degree from  
41       an accredited postsecondary institution; whose students are eligible to participate in

42 the federal Pell Grant program; which has been reviewed and approved for operation  
43 and for receipt of tuition equalization grant funds by the Georgia Nonpublic  
44 Postsecondary Education Commission; which has a physical location in the State of  
45 Georgia; and which has been in existence in the State of Georgia for at least five  
46 years.

47 ~~(ii)~~(iii) Any proprietary institution that is otherwise qualified pursuant to division (i)  
48 of this subparagraph on July 1, 1995, shall be deemed to be eligible for receipt of  
49 tuition equalization grant funds subject, however, to any subsequent review of such  
50 approval pursuant to any proper regulations which may thereafter be adopted in  
51 accordance with paragraph (10) of subsection (b) of Code Section 20-3-250.5  
52 applicable to all qualified proprietary institutions.

53 ~~(iii)~~(iv) Any proprietary institution of higher education that is otherwise qualified  
54 pursuant to division (i) of this subparagraph on January 1, 2011, shall continue to be  
55 an approved school pursuant to this paragraph as long as it continues to meet the  
56 requirements of division (i) of this subparagraph as such existed on March 14, 2011."

57 **SECTION 3.**

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