

House Bill 1064

By: Representatives Rice of the 139th, Gambill of the 15th, Martin of the 49th, Barrett of the 24th, Townsend of the 179th, 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 revise provisions relating to standardized college admissions tests, to include the Classic
3 Learning Test (CLT) among tests such as the SAT and ACT; to provide for related matters;
4 to provide for an effective date and applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
5 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 by
9 revising subsection (a) of Code Section 20-2-84, relating to accountability, flexibility, and
10 consequences of components of contract, as follows:

11 "(a) The accountability component of the contract provided in Code Section 20-2-83 shall
12 include at least one of the student achievement measures in paragraphs (1) through (4) of
13 this subsection, including both total scores and any needed targeted subgroups:

- 14 (1) High school graduation rates;
15 (2) SAT, ~~or~~ ACT, or CLT performance;

- 16 (3) State standardized test data, which may include end-of-grade assessments,
 17 end-of-course assessments, or a combination thereof;
- 18 (4) Advanced placement or international baccalaureate participation and performance;
 19 and
- 20 (5) Any other accountability measures included pursuant to Part 3 of Article 2 of Chapter
 21 14 of this title."

22 **SECTION 2.**

23 Said title is further amended in Code Section 20-2-132, relating to primary goals of the
 24 "Quality Basic Education Act," by revising paragraph (5) as follows:

25 "(5) A significant increase in the test scores of Georgia students who take the ~~Scholastic~~
 26 ~~Assessment Test (SAT) or the ACT Assessment (ACT)~~ SAT, ACT, or CLT;"

27 **SECTION 3.**

28 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 20-2-146, relating to Scholastic
 29 Assessment Test preparatory course and acceptance as elective credit, as follows:

30 "20-2-146.

31 (a) All schools with grade ten or above may make available to eligible students a
 32 ~~Scholastic Assessment Test~~ preparatory course for the SAT, ACT, or CLT. Such course
 33 of study shall be designed to offer an opportunity for review and practice to students
 34 preparing to take ~~the Scholastic Assessment Test~~ such tests. The course may be offered
 35 periodically in the manner prescribed by the local board.

36 (b) Each local board of education shall be authorized to supplement and develop the exact
 37 approach of content areas of such ~~Scholastic Assessment Test~~ preparatory course with such
 38 specific curriculum standards as it may deem appropriate.

39 (c) For the purposes of earning Carnegie unit curriculum credits at the high school level,
40 completion of ~~the Scholastic Assessment Test~~ such preparatory course may be accepted by
41 the State Board of Education for one-half unit of elective credit."

42 **SECTION 4.**

43 Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (9) of subsection (b) of Code Section
44 20-2-161.3, the "Dual Enrollment Act," as follows:

45 "(9) 'Eligible high school student' means a student who is:

46 (A) Entering or enrolled in eleventh or twelfth grade at an eligible high school taking
47 any eligible dual credit course at any eligible postsecondary institution; or

48 (B) Entering or enrolled in tenth grade at an eligible high school when such student:

49 (i) Is enrolled in an eligible CTAE course at an institution within the Technical
50 College System of Georgia;

51 (ii) Has obtained prior to the beginning of the term of dual enrollment coursework
52 an SAT, ~~or~~ ACT, or CLT test score that would meet the assessment requirements of
53 a Zell Miller Scholar pursuant to division (27)(A)(i) of Code Section 20-3-519 and
54 is taking eligible core courses at any eligible postsecondary institution; or

55 (iii) Was enrolled as a ninth grader in one or more dual credit courses at an eligible
56 postsecondary institution for which payment was made under this part on or before
57 June 30, 2020."

58 **SECTION 5.**

59 Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (3) of subsection (b) of Code Section
60 20-2-171, relating to minimum direct classroom expenditures, waivers, sanctions for
61 noncompliance, submission of budget and expenditure information, and rules and
62 regulations, as follows:

63 "(3) A local school system that has direct classroom expenditures that are less than 65
64 percent of its total operating expenditures and that is unable to meet the expenditure
65 requirements in paragraph (2) of this subsection may apply to the State Board of
66 Education for a one-year renewable achievement waiver. The waiver request must
67 include evidence that the local school system is exceeding the state averages in academic
68 categories designated by the board, which may include, but not be limited to,
69 end-of-grade assessments, end-of-course assessments, and the SAT, ACT, or CLT, a plan
70 for obtaining compliance with this Code section, and any other information required at
71 the discretion of the board; and"

72

SECTION 6.

73 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 20-2-324.9, relating to availability of
74 standardized testing to home study students, as follows:

75 "20-2-324.9

76 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'home study student' means a student in grades
77 six through 12 who is in a home study program that meets the requirements of
78 subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690.

79 (b) Each local school system that offers the PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, PreACT, ACT, CLT,
80 CLT10, or Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery or an advanced placement exam
81 to students enrolled in such local school system shall:

82 (1) Make each such test or exam available to any home study student who resides in the
83 local school system; and

84 (2) Post on its public website notice of the date that each such test or exam will be
85 administered. Such notice shall include registration dates and procedures and shall state
86 that such test or exam is available for home study students who reside in the local school
87 system.

88 (c) No local school system that offers the PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, PreACT, ACT, CLT,
89 CLT10, or Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery or an advanced placement exam
90 to students enrolled in such local school system shall require home study students to pay
91 a fee not required of students enrolled in such local school system or impose any
92 requirement that conflicts with or is in addition to the requirements of subsection (c) of
93 Code Section 20-2-690."

94 **SECTION 7.**

95 Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (27) of Code Section 20-3-519, relating
96 to definitions relative to HOPE Scholarships and Grants, as follows:

97 "(27) 'Zell Miller Scholarship Scholar' means a student who has met the applicable
98 eligibility requirements to receive a HOPE scholarship in accordance with Code Section
99 20-3-519.2 and:

100 (A) As an incoming freshman:

101 (i) Having graduated from an eligible high school with a grade point average of at
102 least 3.7 calculated in accordance with Code Section 20-2-157 and having received
103 a score of at least 1,200 on the combined critical reading and math portions on a
104 single administration of the SAT administered prior to March 1, 2016, or on the total
105 score on a single administration of the SAT administered on or after March 1, 2016,
106 ~~or~~ an equivalent ACT composite scale score, or an equivalent CLT score which shall
107 be determined by the Georgia Student Finance Commission by January 1 of each year
108 using nationally recognized standards, such as the College Board and ACT or CLT
109 concordance tables;

110 (ii) Having graduated from an eligible high school as a valedictorian or salutatorian;

111 (iii) Having completed a home study program meeting the requirements of
112 subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690 or having graduated from a high school
113 which is not an eligible high school, having received a score in the ninety-third

114 percentile or higher on the ACT, on the combined critical reading and math portions
115 on a single administration of the SAT administered prior to March 1, 2016, or on the
116 total score on a single administration of the SAT administered on or after March 1,
117 2016, or on the CLT; or

118 (iv) Having completed a home study program meeting the requirements of
119 subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690 or having graduated from a high school
120 which is not an eligible high school, having received a score of at least 1,200 on the
121 combined critical reading and math portions on a single administration of the SAT
122 administered prior to March 1, 2016, or on the total score on a single administration
123 of the SAT administered on or after March 1, 2016, ~~or~~ an ACT composite scale score
124 of at least 26, or a CLT overall score of at least 86, and earning a cumulative grade
125 point average of at least 3.3 at an eligible postsecondary institution at the end of the
126 quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45 quarter hours or 30
127 semester hours, provided that such student shall be eligible to receive a retroactive
128 scholarship for such student's freshman year to be paid at the end of the freshman
129 year; and

130 (B) As a sophomore, junior, senior, or first professional student who met the
131 requirements of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, having a cumulative grade point
132 average of at least 3.3 at the checkpoints set forth in paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of
133 Code Section 20-3-519.2. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a student who entered an
134 eligible postsecondary institution as a freshman between July 1, 2007, and
135 June 30, 2011, and met the requirements of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph may
136 become a Zell Miller Scholarship Scholar as a sophomore, junior, senior, or first
137 professional student.

138 A student who loses eligibility to be a Zell Miller Scholarship Scholar for any reason may
139 regain eligibility one time if the student requalifies at one of the checkpoints set forth in
140 paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of Code Section 20-3-519.2."

141 **SECTION 8.**

142 Said title is further amended by revising subparagraph (a)(1)(C) of 20-3-519.2, relating to
143 academic and enrollment requirements for eligibility for a HOPE scholarship, duration of
144 scholarship, and award amount, as follows:

145 "(C) In the case of an otherwise qualified student who:

146 (i) Did not graduate from high school or complete a home study program meeting the
147 requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690 but received the state
148 approved high school equivalency (HSE) diploma awarded by the Department of
149 Technical and Adult Education, now known as the Technical College System of
150 Georgia, after June 30, 1993;

151 (ii) Completed a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of
152 Code Section 20-2-690 in lieu of graduating from an eligible high school; or

153 (iii) Graduated from a high school which is not an eligible high school, earning a
154 score in the seventy-fifth percentile or higher nationally on a standardized college
155 admission test, such as the SAT, or ACT, or CLT; and"

156 **SECTION 9.**

157 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2026, and shall apply to all school years beginning
158 with the 2026-2027 school year and to all academic years beginning with the 2026-2027
159 academic year.

160 **SECTION 10.**

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