

Senate Bill 17

By: Senator James of the 35th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to scholarships, loans, and grants, so as to revise certain definitions relating to tuition
3 equalization grants and HOPE scholarships and grants; to provide for related matters; to
4 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
8 scholarships, loans, and grants, is amended by revising subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2)
9 of Code Section 20-3-411, relating to definitions relative to tuition equalization grants at
10 private colleges and universities, as follows:

11 "(A) A nonproprietary institution of higher education located in this state which is not
12 a branch of the university system; which is not a four-year or graduate level institution
13 of higher education that is, or is a part of, a college or university system that is owned
14 and operated by a state other than Georgia; which is accredited by the Southern
15 Association of Colleges and Schools; which is not a graduate level school or college of
16 theology or divinity; and which is not presently receiving state funds under Article 4
17 of this chapter; provided, however, that an institution which otherwise meets the
18 requirements of this definition and of this subpart except for the lack of accreditation
19 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools shall be deemed to be an
20 'approved school' during the period that the institution holds candidate for accreditation
21 status with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; provided, further, that
22 an institution which was previously accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges

and Schools within the last ~~seven years~~ 11 years, which is currently working to reattain such accreditation, and which otherwise meets the requirements of this definition and of this subpart except for the lack of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools shall be deemed to be an 'approved school'; and"

SECTION 2.

Said article is further amended in Code Section 20-3-519, relating to definitions relative to HOPE scholarships and grants, by revising paragraph (6) as follows:

"(6) 'Eligible high school' means a public or private secondary school which is:

(A) Located in Georgia and accredited as such by:

- (i) The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools;
- (ii) The Georgia Accrediting Commission;
- (iii) The Georgia Association of Christian Schools;
- (iv) The Association of Christian Schools International;
- (v) The Georgia Private School Accreditation Council; or
- (vi) The Southern Association of Independent Schools;

provided, however, that between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2015, if a high school located in Georgia was accredited by one of the accrediting agencies included in this subparagraph within the previous two years, such high school shall be considered an eligible high school for purposes of this subparagraph; or

(B) Located in another state and accredited by one of the following regional agencies:

- (i) The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools;
- (ii) The New England Association of Schools and Colleges;
- (iii) The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools;
- (iv) The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools;
- (v) The Northwestern Association of Schools and Colleges;
- (vi) The Western Association of Schools and Colleges;
- (vii) The Alabama Independent School Association; or
- (viii) The Southern Association of Independent Schools."

SECTION 3.

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