

House Bill 256

By: Representatives Burnough of the 77th, Mitchell of the 88th, Holcomb of the 81st, Bentley of the 139th, Moore of the 95th, and others

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 establish the HOPE
3 tuition-free grant; to provide for eligibility requirements; to provide for the amount of the
4 grant; to provide for limitations; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and
5 for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Part 7 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
9 relating to HOPE scholarships and grants, is amended by revising Code Section 20-3-519.7,
10 which is reserved, to read as follows:

11 "20-3-519.7.

12 (a) To be eligible for a HOPE tuition-free grant, a student seeking a certificate or diploma
13 at a branch of the Technical College System of Georgia shall, in addition to meeting the
14 residency requirements set forth in subsection (a) of Code Section 20-3-519.1:

(1) Be enrolled in a program of study leading to a certificate or diploma in a field designated by the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia to be in high demand in Georgia; and

(2) Meet enrollment standards by being admitted, enrolled, and classified as an undergraduate student in a matriculated status and maintaining satisfactory academic progress in accordance with the standards and practices used for federal Title IV programs by the institution at which the student is enrolled.

(b) Subject to the provisions of subsection (d) of this Code section, an eligible student may receive HOPE tuition-free grants for all coursework required by the institution for programs of study leading to a certificate or diploma.

(c) Subject to the amounts appropriated by the General Assembly and provisions relating to the Lottery for Education Account in Code Section 50-27-13, a HOPE tuition-free grant awarded under this Code section shall equal the tuition and fees at the postsecondary institution.

(d) No student who has a baccalaureate degree, its equivalent or higher, from any postsecondary institution shall be eligible to receive a HOPE tuition-free grant. No student may receive cumulative HOPE and HOPE tuition-free grants for more than 95 quarter hours or 63 semester hours of attempted coursework. No student may receive more than a cumulative total of 190 quarter hours or 127 semester hours of combined HOPE scholarships and grants. Reserved."

SECTION 2.

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