

AS PASSED SENATE**SENATE SUBSTITUTE TO HB 228**

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 expand the definition of "approved school" as pertaining to tuition equalization grants at
3 private colleges and universities; to require the administration of a nationally recognized
4 multiple-aptitude battery assessment that measures developed abilities and helps predict
5 future academic and occupational success in the military to public school students in
6 grades 11 and 12 who choose to participate; to prohibit the use of assessment results in
7 education accountability programs; to provide for parents and guardians to opt their children
8 out of participating in such assessments; to provide for related matters; to provide for
9 legislative findings; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 WHEREAS, the General Assembly is committed to addressing the healthcare workforce
13 shortage in Georgia, which includes having a sufficient number of quality nurses; and

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

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SECTION 2.

17 Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, is amended in
18 Subpart 5 of Part 3 of Article 7 of Chapter 3, relating to tuition equalization grants at private
19 colleges and universities, by revising Code Section 20-3-411, relating to definitions, by
20 revising subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) as follows:

21 “(A) A nonproprietary institution of higher education located in this state which is not
22 a branch of the university system; which is not a four-year or graduate level institution
23 of higher education that is, or is a part of, a college or university system that is owned
24 and operated by a state other than Georgia; which is accredited by the Southern
25 Association of Colleges and Schools; which is not a graduate level school or college of
26 theology or divinity; and which is not presently receiving state funds under Article 4
27 of this chapter; provided, however, that an institution which otherwise meets the
28 requirements of this definition and of this subpart except for the lack of accreditation
29 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools shall be deemed to be an
30 ‘approved school’ during the period that the institution holds candidate for accreditation
31 status with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; provided, further, that
32 an institution which otherwise meets the requirements of this definition and of this
33 subpart except for the lack of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and
34 Schools shall be deemed to be an ‘approved school’ if such institution was previously
35 an ‘approved school’ under division ~~(iii)~~(iv) of subparagraph (B) of this paragraph
36 within the last five years; provided, further, that an institution which was previously
37 accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools within the last seven
38 years and which otherwise meets the requirements of this definition and of this subpart
39 except for the lack of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and
40 Schools shall be deemed to be an ‘approved school’; provided, further, that an institution
41 which was previously accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools,
42 is now accredited by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools,

43 and which otherwise meets the requirements of this definition and of this subpart except
 44 for the lack of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools shall
 45 be deemed to be an 'approved school'; and"

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SECTION 3.

47 Said Code section is further amended by revising division (2)(B)(i) as follows:

48 "(B)(i) A qualified proprietary institution of higher education located in this state
 49 which is a baccalaureate degree-granting institution of higher education; which is
 50 accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; which is not a Bible
 51 school or college (or, at the graduate level, a school or college of theology or
 52 divinity); which admits as regular students only persons who have a high school
 53 diploma, a state approved high school equivalency (HSE) diploma, or a degree from
 54 an accredited postsecondary institution; whose students are eligible to participate in
 55 the federal Pell Grant program; which has been reviewed and approved for operation
 56 and for receipt of tuition equalization grant funds by the Georgia Nonpublic
 57 Postsecondary Education Commission; which is domiciled and incorporated in the
 58 State of Georgia; which has been ~~in existence in the State of Georgia for at least ten~~
 59 ~~years~~ located in this state since on or before January 1, 2021; and which met all of the
 60 requirements of this subparagraph by January 1, ~~2011~~ 2021; provided, however, that
 61 the criteria for approval for receipt of tuition equalization grant funds shall include but
 62 not be limited to areas of course study; quality of academic instruction; student
 63 placement rate; research and library ~~sources~~; resources; faculty; support staff;
 64 financial resources; ~~physical plant facilities~~ resources; instructional campuses,
 65 facilities, or other physical sites; and support and equipment resources."

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SECTION 4.

67 Said Code section is further amended by redesignating divisions (2)(B)(ii) and (2)(B)(iii) as
68 (2)(B)(iii) and (2)(B)(iv), respectively, and by adding a new division to subparagraph (B) of
69 paragraph (2), to read as follows:

70 "(ii) A qualified proprietary or nonproprietary institution of higher education located
71 in this state which is a baccalaureate degree-granting institution of higher education
72 offering a baccalaureate degree program or programs in nursing; which is accredited
73 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or by the Higher Learning
74 Commission; which is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing
75 Education; which has a National Council Licensure Examination four-year average
76 passage rate of at least 85 percent; which is not a Bible school or college (or, at the
77 graduate level, a school or college of theology or divinity); which admits as regular
78 students only persons who have a high school diploma, a state approved high school
79 equivalency (HSE) diploma, or a degree from an accredited postsecondary institution;
80 whose students are eligible to participate in the federal Pell Grant program; which has
81 been reviewed and approved for operation and for receipt of tuition equalization grant
82 funds by the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission; which has a
83 physical location in the State of Georgia; and which has been in existence in the State
84 of Georgia for at least five years; provided, however, that only the institution's
85 baccalaureate degree program or programs in nursing shall be deemed an approved
86 school for the purposes of this subpart."

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SECTION 5.

88 Said title is further amended in Part 12 of Article 6 of Chapter 2, relating to effectiveness of
89 educational programs, by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

90 "20-2-281.2.

91 (a) Each public school and local school system with students enrolled in grades 11 and 12
92 shall select and administer to public school students enrolled in grades 11 and 12 who

93 choose to participate a nationally recognized multiple-aptitude battery assessment that
94 measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success
95 in the military. Such administration shall occur during normal school hours and shall be
96 made available school wide and system wide. All students enrolled in grades 11 and 12
97 shall have the opportunity to participate at least once in the administration of such
98 assessment.

99 (b) No result of any assessment provided for in subsection (a) of this Code section shall
100 be part of any education accountability assessment program provided for in Article 2 of
101 Chapter 14 of this title.

102 (c) In the event that a parent or guardian of a student elects for their child not to participate
103 in the administration of an assessment provided for in subsection (a) of this Code section,
104 such student's school or school system shall not administer the assessment to that student."

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SECTION 6.

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