

House Bill 1231

By: Representative Holcomb of the 81st

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-3-519.2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 eligibility requirements for a HOPE scholarship and award amount, to allow academically
3 successful students who are concurrently seeking a baccalaureate degree and a first
4 professional degree to use the full number of hours of HOPE scholarship eligibility; to allow
5 academically successful students who commence a graduate program at an eligible
6 postsecondary institution within 18 months of earning a baccalaureate degree to use the full
7 number of hours of HOPE scholarship eligibility; to provide for related matters; to repeal
8 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 Code Section 20-3-519.2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to eligibility
12 requirements for a HOPE scholarship and award amount, is amended by revising subsection
13 (d) as follows:

14 "(d) A student may receive the HOPE scholarship until the first of these events:

15 (1)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, the The student has
16 earned a baccalaureate or first professional degree.

(B) The provisions of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph shall not apply to any student:

(i) Who continuously meets the achievement standards provided for in this Code section while concurrently seeking both a baccalaureate degree and a first professional degree; or

(ii) Who continuously met the achievement standards provided for in this Code section while earning a baccalaureate degree and who, within 18 months of earning such degree, commences a graduate program at an eligible postsecondary institution, provided that he or she continuously meets such achievement standards;

(2) The student has attempted at any postsecondary institution a total of 190 quarter hours or 127 semester hours; or

(3) For those students receiving a HOPE scholarship for the first time between July 1, 2011, and June 30, 2019, seven years from a student's graduation from high school or the equivalent thereof as determined by the Georgia Student Finance Commission in its rules and regulations; provided, however, that for a student who serves in the military during such seven-year period, any such active duty military service shall not count against the seven-year period nor constitute a failure to be enrolled. For those students receiving a HOPE scholarship for the first time on or after July 1, 2019, ten years from a student's graduation from high school or the equivalent thereof as determined by the Georgia Student Finance Commission in its rules and regulations; provided, however, that for a student who serves in the military during such ten-year period, any such active duty military service shall not count against the ten-year period nor constitute a failure to be enrolled. Any full-time or part-time student receiving a HOPE scholarship and enrolled in an eligible postsecondary institution after June 30, 2019, shall remain eligible for a HOPE scholarship pursuant to this paragraph, provided that such student meets all other eligibility requirements, including, but not limited to, those set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection. Students with a disability, as defined in the federal Americans with

44 Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 12102, which prevents or substantially inhibits
45 full-time academic study, may apply to the Georgia Student Finance Commission for a
46 limited waiver from the applicable year limit set forth in this paragraph and request
47 additional time to complete the first to occur of the events set forth in paragraphs (1) and
48 (2) of this subsection. Such application for a limited waiver shall be considered and
49 determined by the Georgia Student Finance Commission in accordance with its rules and
50 regulations."

51 **SECTION 2.**

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