

House Bill 693

By: Representative Carpenter of the 4<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-3-411 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 definitions relative to tuition equalization grants at private colleges and universities, so as to  
3 expand the definition of "approved school"; to provide for related matters; to repeal  
4 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Code Section 20-3-411 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to definitions  
8 relative to tuition equalization grants at private colleges and universities, is amended by  
9 revising division (2)(B)(i) as follows:

10 "(B)(i) A qualified proprietary institution of higher education located in this state  
11 which is a baccalaureate degree-granting institution of higher education; which is  
12 accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; which is not a Bible  
13 school or college (or, at the graduate level, a school or college of theology or  
14 divinity); which admits as regular students only persons who have a high school  
15 diploma, a state approved high school equivalency (HSE) diploma, or a degree from  
16 an accredited postsecondary institution; whose students are eligible to participate in

17 the federal Pell Grant program; which has been reviewed and approved for operation  
 18 and for receipt of tuition equalization grant funds by the Georgia Nonpublic  
 19 Postsecondary Education Commission; which is domiciled and incorporated in the  
 20 State of Georgia; which has been ~~in existence in the State of Georgia for at least ten~~  
 21 years located in this state since on or before January 1, 2015; and which met all of the  
 22 requirements of this subparagraph by January 1, ~~2011~~ 2015; provided, however, that  
 23 the criteria for approval for receipt of tuition equalization grant funds shall include but  
 24 not be limited to areas of course study; quality of academic instruction; student  
 25 placement rate; research and library ~~sources~~; resources; faculty; support staff;  
 26 financial resources; ~~physical plant facilities resources~~; instructional campuses,  
 27 facilities, or other physical sites; and support and equipment resources."

28

## SECTION 2.

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

32 "(ii) A qualified nonproprietary institution of higher education located in this state  
 33 which is a baccalaureate degree-granting institution of higher education offering a  
 34 baccalaureate degree program or programs in nursing; which is accredited by the  
 35 Higher Learning Commission; which is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate  
 36 Nursing Education; which is not a Bible school or college (or, at the graduate level,  
 37 a school or college of theology or divinity); which admits as regular students only  
 38 persons who have a high school diploma, a state approved high school equivalency  
 39 (HSE) diploma, or a degree from an accredited postsecondary institution; whose  
 40 students are eligible to participate in the federal Pell Grant program; which has been  
 41 reviewed and approved for operation and for receipt of tuition equalization grant  
 42 funds by the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission; and which

43 has at least one instructional campus that is physically located in the State of Georgia  
44 for at least ten years as of January 1, 2025; provided, however, that only such  
45 institution's baccalaureate degree program or programs in nursing shall be deemed an  
46 approved school for the purposes of this subpart; and provided, further, that an  
47 institution or program that is deemed an approved school pursuant to this division  
48 shall not be deemed an eligible postsecondary institution as defined in Code Section  
49 20-3-519 or for any purposes provided for in Part 7 of this article, relating to HOPE  
50 scholarships and grants."

51 **SECTION 3.**

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