

House Bill 1417

By: Representatives Campbell of the 35<sup>th</sup>, Lupton of the 83<sup>rd</sup>, Erwin of the 32<sup>nd</sup>, Wilkerson of the 38<sup>th</sup>, Carter of the 93<sup>rd</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-2-157 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 uniform reporting system for certain purposes, dual credit courses, and academic eligibility  
3 requirements to receive HOPE scholarship, so as to provide for the inclusion of advanced  
4 placement, international baccalaureate, and Cambridge fine arts courses in the calculation  
5 of grade point averages for determining student eligibility for the HOPE scholarships and  
6 other scholarships; to provide for applicability; to provide for a definition; to provide for  
7 related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
8 purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

11 Code Section 20-2-157 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to uniform  
12 reporting system for certain purposes, dual credit courses, and academic eligibility  
13 requirements to receive HOPE scholarship, is amended by revising subsection (a.1),  
14 paragraph (3.1) of subsection (b), and paragraph (3) of subsection (c) as follows:

15 "(a.1) As used in this Code section, the term:

16 (1) 'Dual 'dual credit course' shall have the same meaning as in Code Section 20-2-161.3.

17 (2) 'Fine arts' means an advanced placement, international baccalaureate, or Cambridge  
18 fine arts course for which the Department of Education has designated a unique course  
19 number and name indicating that such course is classified as advanced placement,  
20 international baccalaureate, or Cambridge."

21 "(3.1) For students otherwise qualified and enrolling in the ninth grade for the first time  
22 during the 2008-2009 school year and thereafter, the Georgia Student Finance  
23 Commission shall calculate grade point averages for determining eligibility for the HOPE  
24 scholarship and other scholarships referenced in this Code section by equating each grade  
25 for a student in attempted coursework in English, mathematics, science, social studies,  
26 fine arts, and foreign language during the student's ninth, tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade  
27 year to a grade on a 4.0 scale, such that a grade of 'A' = 4.0, a grade of 'B' = 3.0, a grade  
28 of 'C' = 2.0, a grade of 'D' = 1.0, and a grade of 'F' = 0. Grades for coursework that is  
29 classified as advanced placement, a dual credit course, or international baccalaureate shall  
30 be weighted uniformly by the Georgia Student Finance Commission in calculating the  
31 overall grade point averages for students, provided that the weighting of such course  
32 grades is uniformly applied to all students in this state taking the specified coursework.  
33 The sum of the equated grades shall be divided by the number of course grades, adjusted  
34 for term length, to yield a grade point average on a 4.0 scale; and"

35 "(3) The Georgia Student Finance Commission shall calculate a grade point average for  
36 the purpose of determining eligibility for the HOPE scholarship from these electronic  
37 transcripts and shall notify students of their potential eligibility and high schools as to the  
38 potential eligibility of students; provided, however, that the Georgia Student Finance  
39 Commission shall not include fine arts course grades in the calculation of any grade point  
40 average for any student who graduated from high school before July 1, 2026."

41 **SECTION 2.**

42 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2026.

43

**SECTION 3.**

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