

House Bill 157

By: Representatives Evans of the 57th, Greene of the 154th, Anulewicz of the 42nd, Stephens of the 164th, and Bentley of the 150th

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 provide for HOPE grant
3 eligibility for students seeking an associate degree at a branch of the Technical College
4 System of Georgia; to provide that such students may receive HOPE grants for remedial and
5 developmental courses required for such degree; to revise a definition; to provide for related
6 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Part 7 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
10 relating to HOPE scholarships and grants, is amended in Code Section 20-3-519, relating to
11 definitions, by revising paragraph (21.1) as follows:

12 "(21.1) 'Remedial and developmental courses' means coursework required by the
13 postsecondary institution or chosen by the student that does not count toward program
14 requirements for ~~college degrees in the case of the HOPE scholarship, or, diplomas or~~
15 ~~certificates in the case of the HOPE grant~~ a certificate, diploma, or degree."

SECTION 2.

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17 Said part is further amended in Code Section 20-3-519.5, relating to eligibility requirements
18 for a HOPE grant, by repealing subsection (a.1) and revising subsections (a) and (c) as
19 follows:

20 "(a) To be eligible for a HOPE grant, a student seeking a ~~diploma or certificate, diploma,~~
21 or an associate degree at a branch of the Technical College System of Georgia or a
22 certificate or diploma at a unit of the University System of Georgia shall, in addition to
23 meeting the residency requirements set forth in subsection (a) of Code Section 20-3-519.1:

24 (1) Meet achievement standards by earning a cumulative grade point average of at
25 least 2.0 at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attended 30 or 60
26 semester hours or 45 or 90 quarter hours of courses toward a diploma or certificate for
27 which the student received HOPE funds pursuant to this part. The grade point average
28 shall be calculated using such 30 semester or 45 quarter hours taken pursuant to this
29 subsection. An otherwise eligible student who attains or regains a cumulative grade point
30 average of at least 2.0 at the end of a quarter or semester in which the student has
31 attempted 30 or 60 semester hours or 45 or 90 quarter hours may qualify or requalify for
32 a HOPE grant; provided, however, that a student who receives a HOPE grant and loses
33 eligibility pursuant to this paragraph is only eligible to regain or requalify for the HOPE
34 grant one time; and

35 (2) Meet enrollment standards by being admitted, enrolled, and classified as an
36 undergraduate student in a matriculated status in a program of study leading to a
37 certificate or diploma and maintaining satisfactory academic progress in accordance with
38 the standards and practices used for federal Title IV programs by the institution at which
39 the student is enrolled.

40 ~~(a.1) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this Code section, a student seeking an associate~~
41 ~~degree at a branch of the Technical College System of Georgia who received a high school~~
42 ~~diploma pursuant to Code Section 20-2-149.2 through completion of:~~

43 ~~(1) A technical college diploma program and all postsecondary academic education and~~
44 ~~technical education and training prerequisites for any state, national, or industry~~
45 ~~occupational certifications or licenses required to work in the field; or~~
46 ~~(2) At least two technical college certificate of credit programs in one specific career~~
47 ~~pathway and all postsecondary academic education and technical education and training~~
48 ~~prerequisites for any state, national, or industry occupational certifications or licenses~~
49 ~~required to work in the field as determined by the Technical College System of Georgia~~
50 ~~shall be eligible for a HOPE grant as long as he or she meets the residency requirements~~
51 ~~set forth in subsection (a) of Code Section 20-3-519.1 and the requirements of~~
52 ~~paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a) of this Code section. The HOPE grant shall be~~
53 ~~used to cover the cost of up to 30 degree hours to obtain an associate degree."~~
54 "(c) Subject to the provisions of subsection (e) of this Code section, an eligible student
55 seeking a certificate, diploma, or an associate degree at a branch of the Technical College
56 System of Georgia or a certificate or diploma at a unit of the University System of Georgia,
57 may receive HOPE grants for all coursework required by the postsecondary institution for
58 programs of study leading to a such certificate, ~~or~~ diploma, or associate degree, including
59 remedial and developmental courses."

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SECTION 3.

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