

House Bill 179

By: Representatives Raffensperger of the 50th, Chandler of the 105th, Jasperse of the 11th, Cantrell of the 22nd, Casas of the 107th, and others

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 eligibility for Zell
3 Miller Scholarships for home study students and students graduating from ineligible high
4 schools who receive certain scores on standardized college admission tests; to revise
5 eligibility requirements for HOPE scholarships for entering freshmen students who are home
6 study students or students who graduated from ineligible high schools regarding scores on
7 standardized college admission tests; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
8 laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

11 Part 7 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
12 relating to HOPE scholarships and grants, is amended in Code Section 20-3-519, relating to
13 definitions, by revising paragraph (27) as follows:

14 "(27) 'Zell Miller Scholarship Scholar' means a student who has met the applicable
15 eligibility requirements to receive a HOPE scholarship in accordance with Code Section
16 20-3-519.2 and:

17 (A) As an incoming freshman:

18 (i) Having graduated from an eligible high school with a grade point average of at
19 least 3.7 calculated in accordance with Code Section 20-2-157 and having received
20 a score ~~of at least 1,200~~ in the eightieth percentile or higher on the ACT or on the
21 combined critical reading and math portions on a single administration of the SAT
22 ~~administered prior to March 1, 2016, or on the total score on a single administration~~
23 ~~of the SAT administered on or after March 1, 2016, or an ACT composite scale score~~
24 ~~of at least 26;~~

25 (ii) Having graduated from an eligible high school as a valedictorian or salutatorian;

26 (iii) Having completed a home study program meeting the requirements of
 27 subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690 or having graduated from a high school
 28 which is not an eligible high school, having received a score in the ~~ninety-third~~
 29 eightieth percentile or higher on the ACT; or on the combined critical reading and
 30 math portions on a single administration of the SAT ~~administered prior to March 1,~~
 31 ~~2016, or on the total score on a single administration of the SAT administered on or~~
 32 ~~after March 1, 2016; or~~

33 (iv) Having completed a home study program meeting the requirements of
 34 subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690 or having graduated from a high school
 35 which is not an eligible high school, having received a score ~~of at least 1,200 in the~~
 36 eightieth percentile or higher on the ACT or on the combined critical reading and
 37 math portions on a single administration of the SAT ~~administered prior to March 1,~~
 38 ~~2016, or on the total score on a single administration of the SAT administered on or~~
 39 ~~after March 1, 2016, or an ACT composite scale score of at least 26, and earning a~~
 40 cumulative grade point average of at least 3.3 at an eligible postsecondary institution
 41 at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45 quarter
 42 hours or 30 semester hours, provided that such student shall be eligible to receive a
 43 retroactive scholarship for such student's freshman year to be paid at the end of the
 44 freshman year; and

45 (B) As a sophomore, junior, senior, or first professional student who met the
 46 requirements of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, having a cumulative grade point
 47 average of at least 3.3 at the checkpoints set forth in paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of
 48 Code Section 20-3-519.2. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a student who entered an
 49 eligible postsecondary institution as a freshman between July 1, 2007, and June 30,
 50 2011, and met the requirements of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph may become a
 51 Zell Miller Scholarship Scholar as a sophomore, junior, senior, or first professional
 52 student.

53 A student who loses eligibility to be a Zell Miller Scholarship Scholar for any reason may
 54 regain eligibility one time if ~~the~~ such student requalifies at one of the checkpoints set
 55 forth in paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of Code Section 20-3-519.2."

56 SECTION 2.

57 Said part is further amended in Code Section 20-3-519.2, relating to eligibility requirements
 58 for a HOPE scholarship, by revising subsection (a) as follows:

59 "20-3-519.2.

60 (a) To be eligible for a HOPE scholarship, an entering freshman student seeking an
 61 associate or baccalaureate degree at an eligible postsecondary institution shall, in addition

62 to meeting the residency requirements set forth in subsection (a) of Code
63 Section 20-3-519.1:

64 (1) Meet achievement standards by:

65 (A) Having graduated from an eligible high school while meeting the curriculum
66 requirements of his or her program of study in 1993 or thereafter and meeting the
67 requirements set out in the applicable subsection and paragraph of Code
68 Section 20-2-157;

69 (B) In the case of a student who is otherwise qualified but:

70 (i) Did not graduate from high school or complete a home study program meeting the
71 requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690, having received the general
72 educational development (GED) diploma awarded by the Department of Technical
73 and Adult Education, now known as the Technical College System of Georgia, after
74 June 30, 1993, provided that such student shall only be eligible for a HOPE
75 scholarship pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section;

76 (ii) Completed a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of
77 Code Section 20-2-690 in lieu of graduating from an eligible high school, earning a
78 cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at an eligible postsecondary institution
79 at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45 quarter
80 hours or 30 semester hours, provided that such student shall be eligible to receive a
81 retroactive HOPE scholarship for such student's freshman year to be paid at the end
82 of the freshman year; or

83 (iii) Graduated from a high school which is not an eligible high school, earning a
84 cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at an eligible postsecondary institution
85 at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45 quarter
86 hours or 30 semester hours, provided that such student shall be eligible to receive a
87 retroactive HOPE scholarship for such student's freshman year to be paid at the end
88 of the freshman year; or

89 (C) In the case of an otherwise qualified student who:

90 (i) Did not graduate from high school or complete a home study program meeting the
91 requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690 but received the general
92 educational development (GED) diploma awarded by the Department of Technical
93 and Adult Education, now known as the Technical College System of Georgia, after
94 June 30, 1993;

95 (ii) Completed a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of
96 Code Section 20-2-690 in lieu of graduating from an eligible high school; or

97 (iii) Graduated from a high school which is not an eligible high school,

