

House Bill 228 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Dempsey of the 13th, Cooper of the 45th, Taylor of the 173rd, Prince of the 132nd, Hawkins of the 27th, and others

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 regarding tuition equalization grants at private colleges and universities, so as to
3 expand the definition of "approved school"; to provide for related matters; to provide for
4 legislative findings; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 WHEREAS, the General Assembly is committed to addressing the health care workforce
8 shortage in Georgia, which includes having a sufficient number of quality nurses; and

9 WHEREAS, to increase the number of high-quality nurses in Georgia, crucial elements
10 include providing financial assistance and removing impediments to practicing nursing.

11 **SECTION 2.**

12 Code Section 20-3-411 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to definitions
13 regarding tuition equalization grants at private colleges and universities, is amended by
14 revising paragraph (2) as follows:

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15 "(2) 'Approved school' means:

16 (A) A nonproprietary institution of higher education located in this state which is not
17 a branch of the university system; which is not a four-year or graduate level institution
18 of higher education that is, or is a part of, a college or university system that is owned
19 and operated by a state other than Georgia; which is accredited by the Southern
20 Association of Colleges and Schools; which is not a graduate level school or college of
21 theology or divinity; and which is not presently receiving state funds under Article 4
22 of this chapter; provided, however, that an institution which otherwise meets the
23 requirements of this definition and of this subpart except for the lack of accreditation
24 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools shall be deemed to be an
25 'approved school' during the period that the institution holds candidate for accreditation
26 status with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; provided, further, that
27 an institution which otherwise meets the requirements of this definition and of this
28 subpart except for the lack of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and
29 Schools shall be deemed to be an 'approved school' if such institution was previously
30 an 'approved school' under division ~~(iii)~~ (iv) of subparagraph (B) of this paragraph
31 within the last five years; provided, further, that an institution which was previously
32 accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools within the last seven
33 years and which otherwise meets the requirements of this definition and of this subpart
34 except for the lack of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and
35 Schools shall be deemed to be an 'approved school'; and

36 (B)(i) A qualified proprietary institution of higher education located in this state
37 which is a baccalaureate degree-granting institution of higher education; which is
38 accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; which is not a Bible
39 school or college (or, at the graduate level, a school or college of theology or
40 divinity); which admits as regular students only persons who have a high school
41 diploma, a state approved high school equivalency (HSE) diploma, or a degree from

42 an accredited postsecondary institution; whose students are eligible to participate in
43 the federal Pell Grant program; which has been reviewed and approved for operation
44 and for receipt of tuition equalization grant funds by the Georgia Nonpublic
45 Postsecondary Education Commission; which is domiciled and incorporated in the
46 State of Georgia; which has been in existence in the State of Georgia for at least ten
47 years; and which met all of the requirements of this subparagraph by January 1, 2011;
48 provided, however, that the criteria for approval for receipt of tuition equalization
49 grant funds shall include but not be limited to areas of course study, quality of
50 instruction, student placement rate, research and library sources, faculty, support staff,
51 financial resources, physical plant facilities resources, and support and equipment
52 resources.

53 (ii) A qualified proprietary institution of higher education located in this state which
54 is a baccalaureate degree-granting institution of higher education offering a
55 baccalaureate degree program or programs in nursing; which is accredited by the
56 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or by the Higher Learning
57 Commission; which is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing
58 Education; which has a National Council Licensure Examination four-year average
59 passage rate of at least 85 percent; which is not a Bible school or college (or, at the
60 graduate level, a school or college of theology or divinity); which admits as regular
61 students only persons who have a high school diploma, a state approved high school
62 equivalency (HSE) diploma, or a degree from an accredited postsecondary institution;
63 whose students are eligible to participate in the federal Pell Grant program; which has
64 been reviewed and approved for operation and for receipt of tuition equalization grant
65 funds by the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission; which has a
66 physical location in the State of Georgia; and which has been in existence in the State
67 of Georgia for at least five years; provided, however, that only the institution's
68 baccalaureate degree program or programs in nursing shall be deemed an approved

69 school for the purposes of this subpart and provided, further, that the institution shall
70 only be deemed an approved school for the purposes of this subpart for students who
71 enroll in such institution on or before July 1, 2025.

72 ~~(ii)~~(iii) Any proprietary institution that is otherwise qualified pursuant to division (i)
73 of this subparagraph on July 1, 1995, shall be deemed to be eligible for receipt of
74 tuition equalization grant funds subject, however, to any subsequent review of such
75 approval pursuant to any proper regulations which may thereafter be adopted in
76 accordance with paragraph (10) of subsection (b) of Code Section 20-3-250.5
77 applicable to all qualified proprietary institutions.

78 ~~(iii)~~(iv) Any proprietary institution of higher education that is otherwise qualified
79 pursuant to division (i) of this subparagraph on January 1, 2011, shall continue to be
80 an approved school pursuant to this paragraph as long as it continues to meet the
81 requirements of division (i) of this subparagraph as such existed on March 14, 2011."

82 **SECTION 3.**

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