

House Bill 283

By: Representatives Wilkerson of the 38th, Kausche of the 50th, Sharper of the 177th, Clark of the 108th, Park of the 101st, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-3-519 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 definitions regarding HOPE scholarships and grants, so as to revise the definition of the term
3 "Zell Miller Scholarship Scholar" by removing the SAT and ACT score requirements for
4 students who graduate from eligible high schools; to provide for related matters; to repeal
5 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 20-3-519 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to definitions
9 regarding HOPE scholarships and grants, is amended by revising paragraph (27) as follows:

10 "(27) 'Zell Miller Scholarship Scholar' means a student who has met the applicable
11 eligibility requirements to receive a HOPE scholarship in accordance with Code Section
12 20-3-519.2 and:

13 (A) As an incoming freshman:

14 (i) Having graduated from an eligible high school with a grade point average of at
15 least 3.7 calculated in accordance with Code Section 20-2-157 ~~and having received~~
16 ~~a score of at least 1,200 on the combined critical reading and math portions on a~~

17 ~~single administration of the SAT administered prior to March 1, 2016, or on the total~~
18 ~~score on a single administration of the SAT administered on or after March 1, 2016,~~
19 ~~or an ACT composite scale score of at least 26;~~
20 (ii) Having graduated from an eligible high school as a valedictorian or salutatorian;
21 (iii) Having completed a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection
22 (c) of Code Section 20-2-690 or having graduated from a high school which is not an
23 eligible high school, having received a score in the ninety-third percentile or higher
24 on the ACT, on the combined critical reading and math portions on a single
25 administration of the SAT administered prior to March 1, 2016, or on the total score
26 on a single administration of the SAT administered on or after March 1, 2016; or
27 (iv) Having completed a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection
28 (c) of Code Section 20-2-690 or having graduated from a high school which is not an
29 eligible high school, having received a score of at least 1,200 on the combined critical
30 reading and math portions on a single administration of the SAT administered prior
31 to March 1, 2016, or on the total score on a single administration of the SAT
32 administered on or after March 1, 2016, or an ACT composite scale score of at least
33 26, and earning a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.3 at an eligible
34 postsecondary institution at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has
35 attempted 45 quarter hours or 30 semester hours, provided that such student shall be
36 eligible to receive a retroactive scholarship for such student's freshman year to be paid
37 at the end of the freshman year; and
38 (B) As a sophomore, junior, senior, or first professional student who met the
39 requirements of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, having a cumulative grade point
40 average of at least 3.3 at the checkpoints set forth in paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of
41 Code Section 20-3-519.2. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a student who entered an
42 eligible postsecondary institution as a freshman between July 1, 2007, and June 30,
43 2011, and met the requirements of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph may become a

44 Zell Miller Scholarship Scholar as a sophomore, junior, senior, or first professional
45 student.

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

49 **SECTION 2.**

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