

House Bill 291

By: Representatives Dempsey of the 13th, Martin of the 49th, Smyre of the 135th, Ehrhart of the 36th, and Parrish of the 158th

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 subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2) as follows:

H. B. 291

15 "(B)(i) A qualified proprietary institution of higher education located in this state
16 which is a baccalaureate degree-granting institution of higher education; which is
17 accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; which is not a Bible
18 school or college (or, at the graduate level, a school or college of theology or
19 divinity); which admits as regular students only persons who have a high school
20 diploma, a general educational development (GED) diploma, or a degree from an
21 accredited postsecondary institution; whose students are eligible to participate in the
22 federal Pell Grant program; which has been reviewed and approved for operation and
23 for receipt of tuition equalization grant funds by the Georgia Nonpublic
24 Postsecondary Education Commission; which is domiciled and incorporated in the
25 State of Georgia; which has been in existence in the State of Georgia for at least ten
26 years; and which met all of the requirements of this subparagraph by January 1, 2011;
27 provided, however, that the criteria for approval for receipt of tuition equalization
28 grant funds shall include but not be limited to areas of course study, quality of
29 instruction, student placement rate, research and library sources, faculty, support staff,
30 financial resources, physical plant facilities resources, and support and equipment
31 resources.

32 (ii) A qualified proprietary institution of higher education located in this state which
33 is a baccalaureate degree-granting institution of higher education; which is accredited
34 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or by a regional accrediting
35 agency recognized by the United States Department of Education; which is accredited
36 by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education; which has a National Council
37 Licensure Examination four-year average passage rate of at least 85 percent; which
38 is not a Bible school or college (or, at the graduate level, a school or college of
39 theology or divinity); which admits as regular students only persons who have a high
40 school diploma, a general educational development (GED) diploma, or a degree from
41 an accredited postsecondary institution; whose students are eligible to participate in

42 the federal Pell Grant program; which has been reviewed and approved for operation
43 and for receipt of tuition equalization grant funds by the Georgia Nonpublic
44 Postsecondary Education Commission; which has a physical location in the State of
45 Georgia; and which has been in existence in the State of Georgia for at least five
46 years.

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

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

57 **SECTION 3.**

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