

House Bill 39

By: Representatives Lim of the 98th, Camp of the 135th, Hagan of the 156th, Carpenter of the 4th, and Mainor of the 56th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 postsecondary education, so as provide for the issuance of transcripts when a student owes
3 a debt to an institution of higher education; to provide for prohibitions; to provide for
4 definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

7 Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to postsecondary
8 education, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

9 "20-3-2.

10 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

11 (1) 'Debt' means any money, obligation, claim, or sum due or owing or alleged to be due
12 or owing from a current or former student to an institution of higher education. Such
13 term shall not include the fee, if any, that is charged to current or former students by an
14 applicable provider for the actual cost of providing an academic transcript to a student.

15 (2) 'Institution of higher education' includes all institutions subject to this chapter.

16 (3) 'Official transcript' means the academic transcript or a similar academic record of a
17 current or former student of an institution of higher education that is deemed official,
18 authenticated, certified, or bona fide and that contains information customarily provided
19 on an official academic transcript, including, but not limited to, courses taken, terms,
20 grades, degrees or credentials conferred, and any other similar information.

21 (4) 'Unofficial transcript' means the academic transcript or a similar academic record of
22 a current or former student of an institution of higher education that contains information
23 customarily provided on an official transcript but which cannot be used to transfer
24 academic credits to another institution of higher education.

25 (b) No institution of higher education shall:

26 (1) Refuse to provide an unofficial transcript to a current or former student on the
27 grounds that the student owes a debt;

28 (2) Condition the provision of an unofficial transcript on the payment of a debt; or

29 (3) Charge a higher fee for obtaining an unofficial transcript or provide less favorable
30 treatment for such a request because a current or former student owes a debt.

31 (c) No institution of higher education shall:

32 (1) Refuse to provide an official transcript, upon request by a current or former student,
33 to a current or potential employer on the grounds that the student owes a debt;

34 (2) Condition the provision of an official transcript to a current or potential employer on
35 the payment of a debt; or

36 (3) Charge a higher fee for providing an official transcript to a current or potential
37 employer or provide less favorable treatment for such a request because a current or
38 former student owes a debt."

39 **SECTION 2.**

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