

House Bill 820

By: Representative Mitchell of the 106th

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 revise the value of HOPE GED
3 vouchers; to provide for calculation of such value; to provide for HOPE GED vouchers for
4 individuals who receive a passing score on a HiSet examination administered by the
5 Technical College System of Georgia; to extend the deadline for issuing vouchers; to provide
6 for issuing vouchers to current Georgia residents who were awarded their GED outside of
7 this state; to provide the Georgia Student Finance Commission with discretion to issue such
8 vouchers to individuals beyond the deadline for issuing vouchers; to provide for student
9 eligibility; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 Part 7 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
13 relating to HOPE scholarships and grants, is amended by revising Code Section 20-3-519.6,
14 relating to HOPE GED vouchers, as follows:

15 "20-3-519.6.
16 Subject to the amounts appropriated by the General Assembly and provisions relating to
17 the shortfall reserve in Code Section 50-27-13, a HOPE GED voucher in the an amount of
18 \$500.00 equal to the standard full-time tuition of the institution to be paid for the current
19 academic year; provided, however, that the voucher amount shall not exceed the HOPE
20 award amount, as defined in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (12.2) of Code Section
21 20-3-519, for full-time students who attend such institution, who are in a comparable
22 program of study, and who are eligible to receive either a HOPE scholarship or a HOPE
23 grant dependant upon their program of study. Such voucher may only be used to cover
24 postsecondary costs of attendance at such institution. Such voucher shall be available once
25 to each student receiving who receives a general educational development (GED) diploma
26 awarded by the Department of Technical and Adult Education, now known as the
27 Technical College System of Georgia or receives a passing score on the HiSet examination
28 administered by the Technical College System of Georgia after June 30, 1993. Such
29 voucher shall be issued to such student upon enrollment in any eligible postsecondary
30 institution in Georgia within 24 48 months from the date the general educational
31 development (GED) diploma was awarded to the such student or the passing HiSet
32 examination score was issued to such student and may only be used to cover postsecondary
33 costs of attendance at such institution; provided, however, that for an individual who
34 becomes eligible for such voucher while he or she is incarcerated in a penal institution in
35 this state, such voucher may be used by such individual within 24 48 months from the date
36 of release from the penal institution; and provided, further, that an individual who was
37 awarded a general educational development (GED) diploma outside this state becomes
38 eligible for such voucher after continuously residing in this state for more than 48 months.
39 Subject to availability of funds, the Georgia Student Finance Commission shall have the
40 discretion to issue a HOPE GED voucher to any student who has not previously received
41 such voucher and who is seeking to enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution in

42 Georgia for the first time more than 48 months from the date the general educational
43 development (GED) diploma was awarded to such student or from the date a passing HiSet
44 examination score was issued to such student; and provided, further, that in exercising such
45 discretion the commission shall use a random selection process where all applicants have
46 an equal chance of being selected to receive such voucher. An individual who is eligible
47 to receive a HOPE scholarship, HOPE grant, Zell Miller scholarship, or Zell Miller grant
48 shall not receive a HOPE GED voucher."

49 **SECTION 2.**

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