

House Bill 955

By: Representatives Frye of the 118th, Wallace of the 119th, Douglas of the 78th, Nguyen of the 89th, Burnough of the 77th, and others

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 provide that HOPE grants
3 cover the full cost of tuition; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and
4 for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

7 Part 7 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
8 relating to HOPE scholarships and grants, is amended in Code Section 20-3-519, relating to
9 definitions, by revising paragraph (26.1) as follows:

10 ~~"(26.1) 'Zell Miller Grant Scholar' means a student that has met the applicable eligibility~~
11 ~~requirements to receive a HOPE grant in accordance with Code Section 20-3-519.5 and~~
12 ~~earned a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.5 at the end of any quarter or~~
13 ~~semester in which the student has attended courses toward a diploma or certificate."~~

14 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

15 Said part is further amended in Code Section 20-3-519.5, relating to eligibility requirements
16 for HOPE grants, by revising subsections (d) and (d.1) as follows:

17 "(d) Subject to the amounts appropriated by the General Assembly and provisions relating
18 to the Lottery for Education Account in Code Section 50-27-13, a HOPE grant awarded
19 under this Code section shall equal the ~~HOPE award amount~~ student's current academic
20 year standard undergraduate tuition amount.

21 ~~(d.1) For each semester or quarter following a semester or quarter that it is determined that~~
22 ~~a student is a Zell Miller Grant Scholar, a student shall be awarded an amount in addition~~
23 ~~to the HOPE award amount equal to the difference between the HOPE award amount and~~
24 ~~the then current academic year standard undergraduate tuition amount at the institution to~~
25 ~~be paid or the exceptional tuition rate amount in effect on January 1, 2014, for programs~~

26 ~~with exceptional tuition rates in effect on January 1, 2014. Eligibility to be a Zell Miller~~
27 ~~Grant Scholar shall be determined on a semester or quarter basis and paid for the next~~
28 ~~semester or quarter in which a student is enrolled. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Zell~~
29 ~~Miller Grant Scholar shall also receive one semester or quarter of retroactive payment if~~
30 ~~the student was not eligible to be a Zell Miller Grant Scholar because he or she had no~~
31 ~~cumulative grade point average."~~

32 **SECTION 3.**

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