

Senate Bill 107

By: Senators Thompson of the 5th, Jones of the 10th, James of the 35th, Sims of the 12th,
Butler of the 55th 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 the amount of a
3 HOPE scholarship shall be accepted as full payment of tuition by University System of
4 Georgia institutions; to provide that the amount of a HOPE grant shall be accepted as full
5 payment of tuition by institutions of the Technical College System of Georgia; to provide for
6 related matters; to provide for a contingent effective date and contingent repeal; to repeal
7 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Part 7 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
11 relating to HOPE scholarships and grants, is amended by revising paragraph (27) of Code
12 Section 20-3-519, relating to definitions regarding HOPE scholarships and grants, as follows:

13 ~~"(27) 'Zell Miller Scholar' means a student that has met the applicable eligibility~~
14 ~~requirements to receive a HOPE scholarship in accordance with Code Section 20-3-519.2~~
15 ~~and:~~

16 ~~(A) As an incoming freshman:~~

17 ~~(i) Having graduated from an eligible high school with a grade point average of at~~
18 ~~least 3.7 calculated in accordance with Code Section 20-2-157 and having received~~
19 ~~a score of at least 1,200 combined critical reading score and math score on a single~~
20 ~~administration of the SAT or an ACT composite scale score of at least 26;~~

21 ~~(ii) Having graduated from an eligible high school as a valedictorian or salutatorian;~~
22 ~~or~~

23 ~~(iii) Having completed a home study program meeting the requirements of~~
24 ~~subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690, having received a score of at least 1,200~~
25 ~~combined critical reading score and math score on a single administration of the SAT~~
26 ~~or an ACT composite scale score of at least 26, and earning a cumulative grade point~~

27 average of at least 3.3 at an eligible postsecondary institution at the end of the quarter
 28 or semester in which the student has attempted 45 quarter hours or 30 semester hours,
 29 provided that such student shall be eligible to receive a retroactive scholarship for
 30 such student's freshman year to be paid at the end of the freshman year; and
 31 ~~(B) As a sophomore, junior, senior, or first professional student who met the~~
 32 ~~requirements of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, having a cumulative grade point~~
 33 ~~average of at least 3.3 at the checkpoints set forth in paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of~~
 34 ~~Code Section 20-3-519.2. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a student that entered an~~
 35 ~~eligible postsecondary institution as a freshman between July 1, 2007, and June 30,~~
 36 ~~2011, and met the requirements of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph may become a~~
 37 ~~Zell Miller Scholar as a sophomore, junior, senior, or first professional student.~~
 38 ~~A student that loses eligibility to be a Zell Miller Scholar for any reason may regain~~
 39 ~~eligibility one time if the student requalifies at one of the checkpoints set forth in~~
 40 ~~paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of Code Section 20-3-519.2 Reserved."~~

41 SECTION 2.

42 Said part is further amended by revising subsections (e) and (f) of Code Section 20-3-519.2,
 43 relating to eligibility requirements for a HOPE scholarship, as follows:

44 "(e) Subject to the amounts appropriated by the General Assembly and provisions relating
 45 to the Lottery for Education Account in Code Section 50-27-13, a HOPE scholarship
 46 awarded under this Code section shall be equal to the HOPE award amount. Such HOPE
 47 scholarship award shall be accepted by all institutions of the University System of Georgia
 48 as full payment for tuition for the courses taken by a qualifying student at any such
 49 institution during such fiscal year and such student shall not be charged any additional
 50 amount for tuition for such courses.

51 ~~(f) For each semester of eligibility, Zell Miller Scholars shall be awarded an amount in~~
 52 ~~addition to the HOPE award amount as follows:~~

53 ~~(1) If attending an eligible public institution, an amount equal to the difference between~~
 54 ~~the HOPE award amount and the then current academic year standard undergraduate~~
 55 ~~tuition amount at the institution to be paid; and~~

56 ~~(2) If attending an eligible private institution, an amount equal to the difference between~~
 57 ~~the HOPE award amount and the HOPE tuition payment Reserved."~~

58 SECTION 3.

59 Said part is further amended by revising subsection (d) of Code Section 20-3-519.5, relating
 60 to eligibility requirements for a HOPE grant at a branch of the Technical College System of
 61 Georgia, as follows:

62 "(d) Subject to the amounts appropriated by the General Assembly and provisions
63 relating to the Lottery for Education Account in Code Section 50-27-13, a HOPE grant
64 awarded under this Code section shall equal the HOPE award amount. Such grants shall
65 be accepted by all institutions of the Technical College System of Georgia as full
66 payment for tuition for the courses taken by a qualifying student at any such institution
67 during such fiscal year and such student shall not be charged any additional amount for
68 tuition for such courses."

69 **SECTION 4.**

70 Said part is further amended by revising Code Section 20-3-519.10, relating to application
71 of HOPE scholarship and HOPE grant, as follows:

72 "20-3-519.10.

73 ~~A Neither a HOPE scholarship and nor a HOPE grant may be applied to any portion of a~~
74 ~~student's tuition. In no case shall a HOPE scholarship or HOPE grant exceed a student's~~
75 ~~tuition."~~

76 **SECTION 5.**

77 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2015, provided that an amendment to the State
78 Constitution is passed by the General Assembly and ratified by the electors at the November,
79 2014, general election authorizing the General Assembly by general law to establish the
80 amount of tuition that may be charged to students receiving lottery funded scholarships and
81 grants and attending colleges and universities operated by the board of regents or institutions
82 operated by the Technical College System of Georgia. Otherwise, this Act shall be repealed
83 by operation of law on January 1, 2015.

84 **SECTION 6.**

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