

Senate Bill 109

By: Senators James of the 35th, Henson of the 41st, Tate of the 38th, Fort of the 39th, Ramsey, Sr. of the 43rd and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to scholarships, loans, and grants, so as to revise certain definitions relating to tuition  
3 equalization grants and HOPE scholarships and grants; to provide for related matters; to  
4 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 Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
8 scholarships, loans, and grants, is amended by revising subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2)  
9 of Code Section 20-3-411, relating to definitions relative to tuition equalization grants at  
10 private colleges and universities, as follows:

11 "(A) A nonproprietary institution of higher education located in this state which is not  
12 a branch of the university system; which is not a four-year or graduate level institution  
13 of higher education that is, or is a part of, a college or university system that is owned  
14 and operated by a state other than Georgia; which is accredited by the Southern  
15 Association of Colleges and Schools; which is not a graduate level school or college of  
16 theology or divinity; and which is not presently receiving state funds under Article 4  
17 of this chapter; provided, however, that an institution which otherwise meets the  
18 requirements of this definition and of this subpart except for the lack of accreditation  
19 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools shall be deemed to be an  
20 'approved school' during the period that the institution holds candidate for accreditation  
21 status with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; provided, further, that  
22 an institution which was previously accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges  
23 and Schools within the last ~~seven years~~ 11 years, which is currently working to regain  
24 such accreditation, and which otherwise meets the requirements of this definition and  
25 of this subpart except for the lack of accreditation by the Southern Association of  
26 Colleges and Schools shall be deemed to be an 'approved school'; and"

27

**SECTION 2.**

28 Said article is further amended in Code Section 20-3-519, relating to definitions relative to  
29 HOPE scholarships and grants, by revising paragraph (6) as follows:

30 "(6) 'Eligible high school' means a public or private secondary school which is:

31 (A) Located in Georgia and accredited as such by:

32 (i) The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools;

33 (ii) The Georgia Accrediting Commission;

34 (iii) The Georgia Association of Christian Schools;

35 (iv) The Association of Christian Schools International;

36 (v) The Georgia Private School Accreditation Council; or

37 (vi) The Southern Association of Independent Schools;

38 provided, however, that between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2015, if a high school

39 located in Georgia was accredited by one of the accrediting agencies included in this

40 subparagraph within the previous two years, such high school shall be considered an

41 eligible high school for purposes of this subparagraph; or

42 (B) Located in another state and accredited by one of the following regional agencies:

43 (i) The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools;

44 (ii) The New England Association of Schools and Colleges;

45 (iii) The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools;

46 (iv) The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools;

47 (v) The Northwestern Association of Schools and Colleges;

48 (vi) The Western Association of Schools and Colleges;

49 (vii) The Alabama Independent School Association; or

50 (viii) The Southern Association of Independent Schools."

51

**SECTION 3.**

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