

Senate Bill 268

By: Senators Harbin of the 16th, Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd, Heath of the 31st, Williams of the 27th and Payne of the 54th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-3-519.2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 eligibility requirements for a HOPE scholarship, so as to provide for revised eligibility  
3 requirements for incoming freshmen; to eliminate high school grade point average  
4 requirements for HOPE eligibility for incoming freshmen; to amend Code Section 20-2-157  
5 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to uniform reporting system for certain  
6 purposes, so as to make conforming changes; to provide for related matters; to repeal  
7 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Code Section 20-3-519.2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to eligibility  
11 requirements for a HOPE scholarship, is amended by revising subsection (a) as follows:

12 "(a) To be eligible for a HOPE scholarship, an entering freshman student seeking an  
13 associate or baccalaureate degree at an eligible postsecondary institution shall, in addition  
14 to meeting the residency requirements set forth in subsection (a) of Code Section  
15 20-3-519.1:

16 (1) Meet achievement standards by:

17 (A)(i) Having graduated from an eligible high school, earning a cumulative grade  
18 point average of at least 3.0 at an eligible postsecondary institution at the end of the  
19 quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45 quarter hours or 30  
20 semester hours, provided that such student shall be eligible to receive a retroactive  
21 HOPE scholarship for such student's freshman year to be paid at the end of the  
22 freshman year ~~while meeting the curriculum requirements of his or her program of~~  
23 ~~study in 1993 or thereafter and meeting the requirements set out in the applicable~~  
24 ~~subsection and paragraph of Code Section 20-2-157;~~

25 (ii) Accepting a dollar for dollar match for wages earned by the student during his or  
26 her freshman year, as verified by his or her Internal Revenue Service Form W-2, up

27 to the HOPE award amount for each semester or quarter, for the first two semesters  
 28 or quarters of such student's freshman year, earning a cumulative grade point average  
 29 of at least 3.0 at an eligible postsecondary institution at the end of the quarter or  
 30 semester in which the student has attempted 45 quarter hours or 30 semester hours,  
 31 provided that such student shall receive retroactive HOPE scholarship funds in the  
 32 amount of such match for such student's freshman year to be paid at the end of the  
 33 freshman year;

34 (iii) Having received a score of at least 1,100 on a single administration of the SAT  
 35 or an ACT composite scale score of at least 24, earning a cumulative grade point  
 36 average of at least 3.0 at an eligible postsecondary institution at the end of the quarter  
 37 or semester in which the student has attempted 45 quarter hours or 30 semester hours,  
 38 provided that such student shall be eligible to receive a retroactive HOPE scholarship  
 39 for such student's freshman year to be paid at the end of the freshman year; or

40 (iv) Accepting an interest free loan, up to the HOPE award amount for each semester  
 41 or quarter, for the first two semesters or quarters of such student's freshman year,  
 42 earning a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at an eligible postsecondary  
 43 institution at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45  
 44 quarter hours or 30 semester hours, provided that such student shall have his or her  
 45 interest free loan retroactively forgiven at the end of the freshman year.

46 (B) In the case of a student who is otherwise qualified but:

47 (i) Did not graduate from high school or complete a home study program meeting the  
 48 requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690, having received the general  
 49 educational development (GED) diploma awarded by the Department of Technical  
 50 and Adult Education, now known as the Technical College System of Georgia, after  
 51 June 30, 1993, provided that such student shall only be eligible for a HOPE  
 52 scholarship pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section;

53 (ii) Completed a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of  
 54 Code Section 20-2-690 in lieu of graduating from an eligible high school, earning a  
 55 cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at an eligible postsecondary institution  
 56 at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45 quarter  
 57 hours or 30 semester hours, provided that such student shall be eligible to receive a  
 58 retroactive HOPE scholarship for such student's freshman year to be paid at the end  
 59 of the freshman year; or

60 (iii) Graduated from a high school which is not an eligible high school, earning a  
 61 cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at an eligible postsecondary institution  
 62 at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45 quarter  
 63 hours or 30 semester hours, provided that such student shall be eligible to receive a

64 retroactive HOPE scholarship for such student's freshman year to be paid at the end  
65 of the freshman year;

66 (C) In the case of an otherwise qualified student who:

67 (i) Did not graduate from high school or complete a home study program meeting the  
68 requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690 but received the general  
69 educational development (GED) diploma awarded by the Department of Technical  
70 and Adult Education, now known as the Technical College System of Georgia, after  
71 June 30, 1993;

72 (ii) Completed a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of  
73 Code Section 20-2-690 in lieu of graduating from an eligible high school; or

74 (iii) Graduated from a high school which is not an eligible high school,  
75 earning a score in the seventy-fifth percentile or higher nationally on a standardized  
76 college admission test, such as the SAT or ACT; and

77 (2) Meet enrollment standards by being admitted, enrolled, and classified as an  
78 undergraduate student in a matriculated status."

79 **SECTION 2.**

80 Code Section 20-2-157 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to uniform  
81 reporting system for certain purposes, is amended by replacing "HOPE scholarship program"  
82 and "HOPE scholarship" wherever either such term appears with "Zell Miller Scholarship".

83 **SECTION 3.**

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