

Senate Bill 312

By: Senators Bethel of the 54th, Hill of the 32nd, Martin of the 9th, Wilkinson of the 50th, VanNess of the 43rd 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 revise a definition; to establish
3 minimum HOPE award amounts; to provide for related matters; to provide for effective
4 dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 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 by revising paragraph (12.2) of Code
9 Section 20-3-519, relating to definitions, as follows:

10 "(12.2) 'HOPE award amount' means the amount of HOPE award to be made to an
11 eligible student as follows:

12 (A) At an eligible public postsecondary institution, the HOPE award amount is equal
13 to the HOPE award rate multiplied by the number of credit hours, up to a maximum of
14 15, in which an eligible student is enrolled per quarter or semester; provided, however,
15 that, except as provided in Code Section 20-3-519.10, the amount of a HOPE
16 scholarship shall not be less than \$2,000.00 per semester or less than \$134.00 per credit
17 hour; provided, further, that the quarter award shall equal two-thirds of the semester
18 award and that credit hours for remedial and developmental courses shall not be
19 included for the HOPE scholarship; or

20 (B) At an eligible private postsecondary institution, the HOPE award amount is equal
21 to HOPE tuition payment multiplied by the factor rate for full-time students and
22 one-half of the HOPE tuition payment multiplied by the factor rate for half-time
23 students. No awards shall be made to eligible students enrolled in five or fewer credit
24 hours, and credit hours for remedial and developmental courses shall not be included
25 for the HOPE scholarship."

26 SECTION 2.

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

29 "20-3-519.10.

30 A HOPE scholarship and a HOPE grant may be applied to any portion of a student's tuition.

31 In no case shall a HOPE scholarship, Zell Miller Scholarship, Zell Miller Grant, or HOPE
32 grant or any combination thereof awarded for a semester or quarter exceed a student's
33 tuition for such semester or quarter."

34 **SECTION 3.**

35 This Act shall become effective upon approval of this Act by the Governor or upon its
36 becoming law without such approval for purposes of promulgating rules and regulations and
37 shall become effective on July 1, 2016, for all other purposes.

38 **SECTION 4.**

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