

House Bill 1231 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representative Holcomb of the 81<sup>st</sup>

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 and award amount, to allow academically  
3 successful students who are concurrently seeking a baccalaureate degree and a first  
4 professional degree to use the full number of hours of HOPE scholarship eligibility; to allow  
5 academically successful students who commence a graduate program at an eligible  
6 postsecondary institution within 18 months of earning a baccalaureate degree to use the full  
7 number of hours of HOPE scholarship eligibility; to provide for exceptions based on  
8 previous participation in the dual enrollment program; to provide for related matters; to  
9 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 Code Section 20-3-519.2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to eligibility  
13 requirements for a HOPE scholarship and award amount, is amended by revising subsection  
14 (d) as follows:

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15 "(d) A student may receive the HOPE scholarship until the first of these events:

16 (1)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, the The student has  
17 earned a baccalaureate or first professional degree.

18 (B)(i) Subject to division (ii) of this subparagraph, the provisions of  
19 subparagraph (A) of this paragraph shall not apply to any student:

20 (I) Who continuously meets the achievement standards provided for in this Code  
21 section while concurrently seeking both a baccalaureate degree and a first  
22 professional degree; or

23 (II) Who continuously met the achievement standards provided for in this Code  
24 section while earning a baccalaureate degree and who, within 18 months of earning  
25 such degree, commences a graduate program at an eligible postsecondary  
26 institution, provided that he or she continuously meets such achievement standards.

27 (ii) Notwithstanding any provision of Code Section 20-2-161.3 to the contrary, the  
28 number of hours for which a student is eligible to receive the HOPE scholarship for  
29 a first professional degree or a graduate degree under division (i) of this subparagraph  
30 shall be reduced by the number of hours for which such student received credit for  
31 completing one or more postsecondary courses while participating in the dual  
32 enrollment program provided for in Code Section 20-2-161.3 and the cost of such  
33 postsecondary courses was paid for using state funds pursuant to such program;

34 (2) The student has attempted at any postsecondary institution a total of 190 quarter  
35 hours or 127 semester hours; or

36 (3) For those students receiving a HOPE scholarship for the first time between July 1,  
37 2011, and June 30, 2019, seven years from a student's graduation from high school or the  
38 equivalent thereof as determined by the Georgia Student Finance Commission in its rules  
39 and regulations; provided, however, that for a student who serves in the military during  
40 such seven-year period, any such active duty military service shall not count against the  
41 seven-year period nor constitute a failure to be enrolled. For those students receiving a

42 HOPE scholarship for the first time on or after July 1, 2019, ten years from a student's  
43 graduation from high school or the equivalent thereof as determined by the Georgia  
44 Student Finance Commission in its rules and regulations; provided, however, that for a  
45 student who serves in the military during such ten-year period, any such active duty  
46 military service shall not count against the ten-year period nor constitute a failure to be  
47 enrolled. Any full-time or part-time student receiving a HOPE scholarship and enrolled  
48 in an eligible postsecondary institution after June 30, 2019, shall remain eligible for a  
49 HOPE scholarship pursuant to this paragraph, provided that such student meets all other  
50 eligibility requirements, including, but not limited to, those set forth in paragraphs (1) and  
51 (2) of this subsection. Students with a disability, as defined in the federal Americans with  
52 Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 12102, which prevents or substantially inhibits  
53 full-time academic study, may apply to the Georgia Student Finance Commission for a  
54 limited waiver from the applicable year limit set forth in this paragraph and request  
55 additional time to complete the first to occur of the events set forth in paragraphs (1) and  
56 (2) of this subsection. Such application for a limited waiver shall be considered and  
57 determined by the Georgia Student Finance Commission in accordance with its rules and  
58 regulations."

59 **SECTION 2.**

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