

The Senate Committee on Higher Education offered the following substitute to HB 228:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, so as to  
2 expand the definition of "approved school" as pertaining to tuition equalization grants at  
3 private colleges and universities; to provide for related matters; to provide for legislative  
4 findings; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 WHEREAS, the General Assembly is committed to addressing the healthcare workforce  
8 shortage in Georgia, which includes having a sufficient number of quality nurses; and

9 WHEREAS, to increase the number of high-quality nurses in Georgia, crucial elements  
10 include providing financial assistance and removing impediments to practicing nursing.

11 **SECTION 2.**

12 Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, is amended in  
13 Subpart 5 of Part 3 of Article 7 of Chapter 3, relating to tuition equalization grants at private

14 colleges and universities, by revising Code Section 20-3-411, relating to definitions, by  
15 revising subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) as follows:

16       “(A) A nonproprietary institution of higher education located in this state which is not  
17       a branch of the university system; which is not a four-year or graduate level institution  
18       of higher education that is, or is a part of, a college or university system that is owned  
19       and operated by a state other than Georgia; which is accredited by the Southern  
20       Association of Colleges and Schools; which is not a graduate level school or college of  
21       theology or divinity; and which is not presently receiving state funds under Article 4  
22       of this chapter; provided, however, that an institution which otherwise meets the  
23       requirements of this definition and of this subpart except for the lack of accreditation  
24       by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools shall be deemed to be an  
25       ‘approved school’ during the period that the institution holds candidate for accreditation  
26       status with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; provided, further, that  
27       an institution which otherwise meets the requirements of this definition and of this  
28       subpart except for the lack of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and  
29       Schools shall be deemed to be an ‘approved school’ if such institution was previously  
30       an ‘approved school’ under division ~~(iii)~~(iv) of subparagraph (B) of this paragraph  
31       within the last five years; provided, further, that an institution which was previously  
32       accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools within the last seven  
33       years and which otherwise meets the requirements of this definition and of this subpart  
34       except for the lack of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and  
35       Schools shall be deemed to be an ‘approved school’; provided, further, that an institution  
36       which was previously accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools,  
37       is now accredited by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools,  
38       and which otherwise meets the requirements of this definition and of this subpart except  
39       for the lack of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools shall  
40       be deemed to be an ‘approved school’; and”

41

**SECTION 3.**

42 Said Code section is further amended by revising division (2)(B)(i) as follows:

43       “(B)(i) A qualified proprietary institution of higher education located in this state  
 44       which is a baccalaureate degree-granting institution of higher education; which is  
 45       accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; which is not a Bible  
 46       school or college (or, at the graduate level, a school or college of theology or  
 47       divinity); which admits as regular students only persons who have a high school  
 48       diploma, a state approved high school equivalency (HSE) diploma, or a degree from  
 49       an accredited postsecondary institution; whose students are eligible to participate in  
 50       the federal Pell Grant program; which has been reviewed and approved for operation  
 51       and for receipt of tuition equalization grant funds by the Georgia Nonpublic  
 52       Postsecondary Education Commission; which is domiciled and incorporated in the  
 53       State of Georgia; which has been ~~in existence in the State of Georgia for at least ten~~  
 54       years located in this state since on or before January 1, 2021; and which met all of the  
 55       requirements of this subparagraph by January 1, ~~2011~~ 2021; provided, however, that  
 56       the criteria for approval for receipt of tuition equalization grant funds shall include but  
 57       not be limited to areas of course study; quality of academic instruction; student  
 58       placement rate; research and library ~~sources~~, resources; faculty; support staff;  
 59       financial resources; ~~physical plant facilities resources~~, instructional campuses,  
 60       facilities, or other physical sites; and support and equipment resources.”

61

**SECTION 4.**

62 Said Code section is further amended by redesignating divisions (2)(B)(ii) and (2)(B)(iii) as  
 63 (2)(B)(iii) and (2)(B)(iv), respectively, and by adding a new division to subparagraph (B) of  
 64 paragraph (2), to read as follows:

65       “(ii) A qualified proprietary or nonproprietary institution of higher education located  
 66       in this state which is a baccalaureate degree-granting institution of higher education

67 offering a baccalaureate degree program or programs in nursing; which is accredited  
68 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or by the Higher Learning  
69 Commission; which is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing  
70 Education; which has a National Council Licensure Examination four-year average  
71 passage rate of at least 85 percent; which is not a Bible school or college (or, at the  
72 graduate level, a school or college of theology or divinity); which admits as regular  
73 students only persons who have a high school diploma, a state approved high school  
74 equivalency (HSE) diploma, or a degree from an accredited postsecondary institution;  
75 whose students are eligible to participate in the federal Pell Grant program; which has  
76 been reviewed and approved for operation and for receipt of tuition equalization grant  
77 funds by the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission; which has a  
78 physical location in the State of Georgia; and which has been in existence in the State  
79 of Georgia for at least five years; provided, however, that only the institution's  
80 baccalaureate degree program or programs in nursing shall be deemed an approved  
81 school for the purposes of this subpart."

82

**SECTION 5.**

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