

House Bill 228 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Dempsey of the 13th, Cooper of the 45th, Taylor of the 173rd, Prince of the 132nd, Hawkins of the 27th, and others

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 division (2)(B)(i) as follows:

16 "(B)(i) A qualified proprietary institution of higher education located in this state
 17 which is a baccalaureate degree-granting institution of higher education; which is
 18 accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; which is not a Bible
 19 school or college (or, at the graduate level, a school or college of theology or
 20 divinity); which admits as regular students only persons who have a high school
 21 diploma, a state approved high school equivalency (HSE) diploma, or a degree from
 22 an accredited postsecondary institution; whose students are eligible to participate in
 23 the federal Pell Grant program; which has been reviewed and approved for operation
 24 and for receipt of tuition equalization grant funds by the Georgia Nonpublic
 25 Postsecondary Education Commission; which is domiciled and incorporated in the
 26 State of Georgia; which has been ~~in existence in the State of Georgia for at least ten~~
 27 years located in this state since on or before January 1, 2021; and which met all of the
 28 requirements of this subparagraph by January 1, ~~2011~~ 2021; provided, however, that
 29 the criteria for approval for receipt of tuition equalization grant funds shall include but
 30 not be limited to areas of course study; quality of academic instruction; student
 31 placement rate; research and library ~~sources,~~ resources; faculty; support staff;
 32 financial resources; ~~physical plant facilities resources,~~ instructional campuses,
 33 facilities, or other physical sites; and support and equipment resources."

34

SECTION 3.

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

38 "(ii) A qualified proprietary or nonproprietary institution of higher education located
 39 in this state which is a baccalaureate degree-granting institution of higher education

40 offering a baccalaureate degree program or programs in nursing; which is accredited
41 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or by the Higher Learning
42 Commission; which is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing
43 Education; which has a National Council Licensure Examination four-year average
44 passage rate of at least 85 percent; which is not a Bible school or college (or, at the
45 graduate level, a school or college of theology or divinity); which admits as regular
46 students only persons who have a high school diploma, a state approved high school
47 equivalency (HSE) diploma, or a degree from an accredited postsecondary institution;
48 whose students are eligible to participate in the federal Pell Grant program; which has
49 been reviewed and approved for operation and for receipt of tuition equalization grant
50 funds by the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission; which has at
51 least one instructional campus that has been physically located in the State of Georgia
52 for at least ten years, as of June 30, 2024; provided, however, that only such
53 institution's baccalaureate degree program or programs in nursing shall be deemed an
54 approved school for the purposes of this subpart; and provided, further, that an
55 institution or program that is deemed an approved school pursuant to this division
56 shall not be deemed an eligible postsecondary institution as defined in Code Section
57 20-3-519 or for any purposes provided for in Part 7 of this article, relating to HOPE
58 scholarships and grants."

59 **SECTION 4.**

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