

The Senate Committee on Higher Education offered the following substitute to HB 801:

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 revise various provisions regarding the HOPE scholarship; to include certain coursework in  
3 computer science as optional rigor requirements; to provide for weighted scores for certain  
4 college coursework; to provide for a biennial report; to clarify definitions; to provide for  
5 related matters; to provide for effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
6 purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

8 Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, is amended in  
9 Code Section 20-2-157, relating to the uniform reporting system for certain purposes and  
10 academic eligibility requirements to receive a HOPE scholarship, by revising subsection (f)  
11 as follows:  
12

13 "(f) Beginning with students graduating from high school on or after May 1, 2017, in order  
14 to be eligible to receive a HOPE scholarship, a student shall receive credit in at least four  
15 courses prior to graduating from high school from the following categories:

- 16 (1) Advanced math, such as Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry, Math III, or an  
17 equivalent or higher course;
- 18 (2) Advanced science, such as Chemistry, Physics, Biology II, computer science, or an  
19 equivalent or higher course;
- 20 (3) Advanced placement courses in core subjects;
- 21 (3.1) Dual credit courses in core subjects;
- 22 (4) International baccalaureate courses in core subjects;
- 23 (5) Courses taken at a unit of the University System of Georgia in core subjects where  
24 such courses are not remedial and developmental courses, as defined in Code Section  
25 20-3-519; or
- 26 (6) Advanced foreign language courses.

27 Students may take one or more courses in each category; provided, however, that a course  
 28 ~~may~~ shall only be counted one time. The Georgia Student Finance Commission shall be  
 29 authorized to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out the intent of this  
 30 subsection."

## 31 SECTION 2.

32 Said title is further amended in Code Section 20-3-519.2, relating to eligibility requirements  
 33 for a HOPE scholarship, by revising subsection (b) as follows:

34 "(b) To be eligible for a HOPE scholarship, a sophomore, junior, senior, or first  
 35 professional student seeking an associate, baccalaureate, or first professional degree at an  
 36 eligible postsecondary institution shall, in addition to meeting the residency requirements  
 37 set forth in subsection (a) of Code Section 20-3-519.1:

38 (1) Meet achievement standards by meeting the following criteria:

39 (A) Earning a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at a postsecondary  
 40 institution:

41 (i) At the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45, 90,  
 42 or 135 quarter hours or 30, 60, or 90 semester hours if such student is a full-time  
 43 student; or

44 (ii) At the end of three consecutive quarters or semesters if such student is a part-time  
 45 student and has maintained part-time student status for three consecutive quarters or  
 46 semesters; and

47 (B) Maintaining satisfactory academic progress in a course of study in accordance with  
 48 the standards and practices used for federal Title IV programs by the postsecondary  
 49 institution in which the student is enrolled; and

50 (2) Meet enrollment standards by being admitted, enrolled, and classified as an  
 51 undergraduate or first professional student in a matriculated status.

52 Beginning in academic year 2017-2018, the cumulative grade point average calculated  
 53 pursuant to this subsection shall include weighted grades for specific science, technology,  
 54 engineering, and mathematics (STEM) college courses identified by the Board of Regents  
 55 of the University System of Georgia in consultation with the Technical College System of  
 56 Georgia, the Department of Economic Development, and private eligible postsecondary  
 57 institutions, by increasing the grade assigned by the instructor to the student for any such  
 58 course by an additional 0.5 point if such grade is a B, C, or D. Such courses shall be  
 59 academically rigorous and required for or leading to employment in high demand fields in  
 60 Georgia in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Beginning with the  
 61 completion of the 2017-2018 academic year, the Georgia Student Finance Commission  
 62 shall provide a biennial report to the chairpersons of the House Committee on Higher

63 Education and the Senate Higher Education Committee at the following general session of  
 64 the legislature. The report shall include the fields identified as high demand fields and  
 65 associated workforce shortages in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and  
 66 health care; the courses identified as academically rigorous and their relevance to such  
 67 fields; and any other pertinent information that the Georgia Student Finance Commission  
 68 deems relevant. The Governor shall be authorized to convene a task force to identify high  
 69 demand fields and associated workforce shortages and may recommend to the Board of  
 70 Regents of the University System of Georgia initial science, technology, engineering, and  
 71 mathematics college courses to receive additional weight."

### 72 SECTION 3.

73 Said title is further amended in Code Section 20-3-519, relating to definitions relative to  
 74 HOPE scholarships and grants, by revising paragraphs (9.1), (13), and (16.1) as follows:

75 "(9.1) 'Factor rate' means the percentage amount established by the Georgia Student  
 76 Finance Commission against which the previous year tuition is multiplied for eligible  
 77 public postsecondary institutions and against which the previous year HOPE award  
 78 amount is multiplied for eligible private postsecondary institutions."

79 "(13) 'HOPE award rate' means the rate equal to the previous academic year HOPE  
 80 tuition ~~payment to~~ charged by the eligible public postsecondary institution multiplied by  
 81 the factor rate divided by 15. ~~Notwithstanding the foregoing, the~~ The Georgia Student  
 82 Finance Commission ~~may adjust~~ shall recalculate the previous academic year HOPE  
 83 tuition payment used to calculate the HOPE award rate to reflect changes in the mission  
 84 or sector of an eligible public postsecondary institution that affects the tuition charged by  
 85 that institution."

86 "(16.1) 'HOPE tuition payment' means, ~~in the case of an eligible public postsecondary~~  
 87 ~~institution, the amount paid for tuition only based on the standard undergraduate full-time~~  
 88 ~~tuition rate for 15 hours; and,~~ in the case of an eligible private postsecondary institution,  
 89 the amount paid for tuition based on the amount established by the General Assembly in  
 90 an appropriations Act."

### 91 SECTION 4.

92 (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this section, this Act shall become  
 93 effective on July 1, 2016.

94 (b) Section 3 of this Act shall become effective on July 1, 2020.

### 95 SECTION 5.

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