

House Bill 853

By: Representatives Bell of the 75<sup>th</sup>, Ridley of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Clark of the 100<sup>th</sup>, Miller of the 62<sup>nd</sup>,  
Glaize of the 67<sup>th</sup>, 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 repeal the "Drug-free Postsecondary Education Act of 1990"; to remove provisions making  
3 students convicted of certain drug offenses ineligible for loans, scholarships, and grants; to  
4 provide that students shall not be deemed ineligible for HOPE scholarships or grants based  
5 solely on certain convictions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and  
6 for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, is amended by  
10 repealing Article 2 of Chapter 1, the "Drug-free Postsecondary Education Act of 1990," in  
11 its entirety.

12 **SECTION 2.**

13 Said title is further amended by repealing and reserving paragraph (5) in Code Sections  
14 20-3-395.4, 20-3-400.6, and 20-3-405.7, relating to ineligibility relative to direct loans,  
15 ineligibility relative to graduate on time student loans, and ineligibility relative to education  
16 for public service student loan, respectively.

17 **SECTION 3.**

18 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 20-3-519.1, relating to eligibility for  
19 HOPE scholarships or grants, by repealing and reserving paragraph (5) of subsection (b) and  
20 by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

21 "(c) A student shall not be deemed ineligible for any scholarship or grant described in this  
22 part solely based on a conviction for an offense involving marijuana or a controlled  
23 substance."

24 **SECTION 4.**

25 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.