

Senate Bill 187

By: Senators Tippins of the 37th, Miller of the 49th, Jackson of the 2nd, Walker III of the 20th and Butler of the 55th

AS PASSED

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, so as to establish a procedure for students
3 with a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act to apply for a waiver from
4 certain HOPE scholarship and grant eligibility requirements; to provide for responsibilities
5 of the Georgia Student Finance Commission; to provide for related matters; to repeal
6 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Code Section 20-3-519.2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to eligibility
10 requirements for a HOPE scholarship, is amended by revising subsection (d) as follows:

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

12 (1) The student has earned a baccalaureate or first professional degree;

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

15 (3) For those students receiving a HOPE scholarship for the first time between July 1,
16 2011, and June 30, 2019, seven years from a student's graduation from high school or the

17 equivalent thereof as determined by the Georgia Student Finance Commission in its rules
18 and regulations; provided, however, that for a student who serves in the military during
19 such seven-year period, any such active duty military service shall not count against the
20 seven-year period nor constitute a failure to be enrolled. For those students receiving a
21 HOPE scholarship for the first time on or after July 1, 2019, ten years from a student's
22 graduation from high school or the equivalent thereof as determined by the Georgia
23 Student Finance Commission in its rules and regulations; provided, however, that for a
24 student who serves in the military during such ten-year period, any such active duty
25 military service shall not count against the ten-year period nor constitute a failure to be
26 enrolled. Any full-time or part-time student receiving a HOPE scholarship and enrolled
27 in an eligible postsecondary institution after June 30, 2019, shall remain eligible for a
28 HOPE scholarship pursuant to this paragraph, provided that such student meets all other
29 eligibility requirements, including, but not limited to, those set forth in paragraphs (1) and
30 (2) of this subsection. Students with a disability, as defined in the federal Americans with
31 Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 12102, which prevents or substantially inhibits
32 full-time academic study, may apply to the Georgia Student Finance Commission for a
33 limited waiver from the applicable year limit set forth in this paragraph and request
34 additional time to complete the first to occur of the events set forth in paragraphs (1) and
35 (2) of this subsection. Such application for a limited waiver shall be considered and
36 determined by the Georgia Student Finance Commission in accordance with its rules and
37 regulations."

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SECTION 2.

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

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