

Senate Bill 86

By: Senators Brass of the 28th, Sims of the 12th, Gooch of the 51st, Anavitarte of the 31st, Kennedy of the 18th 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 allow eligible students participating in the Dual Enrollment program to access HOPE career
3 grant funds for certain CTAE courses irrespective of whether they have reached maximum
4 credit hour caps; to provide for the Georgia Student Finance Commission to collect and
5 report certain data; to require the Georgia Student Finance Commission and the State Board
6 of the Technical College System of Georgia to establish rules and regulations; to require the
7 Technical College System of Georgia to develop new and prioritize implementation of
8 existing programs of study related to high-demand fields; to require the State Board of the
9 Technical College System of Georgia to annually publish the HOPE Career Grant Programs
10 of Study List; to allow certain students working to receive a high school diploma to receive
11 HOPE grant funds; to revise qualifications for HOPE grant funds; to make conforming
12 changes; to provide for an effective date; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
13 laws; and for other purposes.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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SECTION 1.

16 Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, is amended in Part
17 4 of Article 6 of Chapter 2, relating to financing under the "Quality Basic Education Act,"
18 by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

19 "20-2-161.4.

20 (a)(1) Beginning July 1, 2023, each student participating in the Dual Enrollment program
21 provided for in Code Section 20-2-161.3 shall be allowed to access HOPE career grant
22 funds for eligible CTAE courses, as defined in Code Section 20-2-161.3, which are part
23 of the HOPE Career Grant Programs of Study List provided for in subsection (b) of this
24 Code section irrespective of whether such student has reached any maximum credit hour
25 cap provided for in Code Section 20-2-161.3.

26 (2) For three years beginning on July 1, 2023, the Georgia Student Finance Commission
27 shall collect and report data on:

28 (A) Student enrollment in and completion of programs of study included on the HOPE
29 Career Grant Programs of Study List provided for in subsection (b) of this Code
30 section;

31 (B) Student enrollment in and completion of at least one eligible CTAE course, as
32 defined in Code Section 20-2-161.3, as part of the Dual Enrollment program provided
33 for in Code Section 20-2-161.3;

34 (C) HOPE career grant funding, including, but not limited to, the number of students
35 who received such funding and the maximum, mean, median, and mode amounts of
36 such funding received by students;

37 (D) The number of students who enrolled in a postsecondary degree program after
38 completing a program of study included on the HOPE Career Grant Programs of Study
39 List provided for in subsection (b) of this Code section; and

40 (E) The number of students employed in a high-demand field after completing a
41 program of study included on the HOPE Career Grant Programs of Study List provided
42 for in subsection (b) of this Code section.

43 No later than January 1 each year, the Georgia Student Finance Commission shall provide
44 an interim report to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the director of the Office of
45 Planning and Budget, and the chairpersons of the House Committee on Education, the
46 Senate Education and Youth Committee, the House Committee on Higher Education, and
47 the Senate Higher Education Committee. A final report shall be provided to the same no
48 later than September 1, 2026.

49 (3) The Georgia Student Finance Commission, in consultation with the State Board of
50 Education, the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia, and the Board
51 of Regents of the University System of Georgia, shall establish rules and regulations to
52 implement the provisions of this subsection.

53 (b)(1) The Technical College System of Georgia shall develop new and prioritize
54 implementation of existing programs of study that qualify students to work in
55 high-demand fields.

56 (2) No later than September 1, 2023, and by January 15 each year thereafter, the State
57 Board of the Technical College System of Georgia shall publish and provide to the State
58 Board of Education and to the Georgia Student Finance Commission a comprehensive
59 list of technical college certificates of credit and technical college diplomas that qualify
60 students to work in high-demand fields. Such list shall be known as the 'HOPE Career
61 Grant Programs of Study List.'

62 (3) The State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia shall establish rules and
63 regulations to implement the provisions of this subsection."

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SECTION 2.

65 Said title is further amended in Part 7 of Article 7 of Chapter 3, relating to HOPE
66 scholarships and grants, by revising subsection (a.1) of Code Section 20-3-519.5, relating to
67 eligibility requirements for a HOPE grant and award amount, as follows:

68 "(a.1) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this Code section, a student seeking an associate
69 degree at a branch unit of the Technical College System of Georgia who has received or
70 is working to receive a high school diploma pursuant to Code Section 20-2-149.2 through
71 completion of:

72 (1) A technical college diploma program and all postsecondary academic education and
73 technical education and training prerequisites for any state, national, or industry
74 occupational certifications or licenses required to work in the field; or

75 (2) At least two technical college certificate of credit programs in one specific career
76 pathway and all postsecondary academic education and technical education and training
77 prerequisites for any state, national, or industry occupational certifications or licenses
78 required to work in the field as determined by the Technical College System of Georgia
79 shall be eligible for a HOPE grant as long as he or she meets the residency requirements
80 set forth in subsection (a) of Code Section 20-3-519.1 and the requirements of ~~paragraphs~~
81 ~~(1) and paragraph~~ (2) of subsection (a) of this Code section. The HOPE grant shall be used
82 to cover the cost of up to 30 degree hours to obtain an associate degree."

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SECTION 3.

84 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2023.

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SECTION 4.

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