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

To amend Code Section 20-3-519.2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to eligibility requirements for a HOPE scholarship, so as to establish a procedure for students with a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act to apply for a waiver from certain HOPE scholarship and grant eligibility requirements; to provide for responsibilities of the Georgia Student Finance Commission; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 2.

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