

The House Committee on Higher Education offers the following substitute to HB 1085:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-3-411 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 definitions regarding tuition equalization grants at private colleges and universities, so as to
3 expand the definition of "approved school"; to provide for related matters; to provide for
4 legislative findings; to provide for contingent effectiveness; to repeal conflicting laws; and
5 for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 WHEREAS, the General Assembly is committed to addressing the health care workforce
9 shortage in Georgia, which includes having a sufficient number of quality nurses; and

10 WHEREAS, to increase the number of high-quality nurses in Georgia, crucial elements
11 include providing financial assistance and removing impediments to practicing nursing.

12 **SECTION 2.**

13 Code Section 20-3-411 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to definitions
14 regarding tuition equalization grants at private colleges and universities, is amended by
15 revising subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2) as follows:

16 "(B)(i) A qualified proprietary institution of higher education located in this state
17 which is a baccalaureate degree-granting institution of higher education; which is
18 accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; which is not a Bible
19 school or college (or, at the graduate level, a school or college of theology or
20 divinity); which admits as regular students only persons who have a high school
21 diploma, a general educational development (GED) diploma, or a degree from an
22 accredited postsecondary institution; whose students are eligible to participate in the
23 federal Pell Grant program; which has been reviewed and approved for operation and
24 for receipt of tuition equalization grant funds by the Georgia Nonpublic

25 Postsecondary Education Commission; which is domiciled and incorporated in the
 26 State of Georgia; which has been in existence in the State of Georgia for at least ten
 27 years; and which met all of the requirements of this subparagraph by January 1, 2011;
 28 provided, however, that the criteria for approval for receipt of tuition equalization
 29 grant funds shall include but not be limited to areas of course study, quality of
 30 instruction, student placement rate, research and library sources, faculty, support staff,
 31 financial resources, physical plant facilities resources, and support and equipment
 32 resources.

33 (ii) A qualified proprietary institution of higher education located in this state which
 34 is a baccalaureate degree-granting institution of higher education; which is accredited
 35 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or by a regional accrediting
 36 agency recognized by the United States Department of Education; which is accredited
 37 by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education; which has a National Council
 38 Licensure Examination four-year average passage rate of at least 85 percent; which
 39 is not a Bible school or college (or, at the graduate level, a school or college of
 40 theology or divinity); which admits as regular students only persons who have a high
 41 school diploma, a general educational development (GED) diploma, or a degree from
 42 an accredited postsecondary institution; whose students are eligible to participate in
 43 the federal Pell Grant program; which has been reviewed and approved for operation
 44 and for receipt of tuition equalization grant funds by the Georgia Nonpublic
 45 Postsecondary Education Commission; which has a physical location in the State of
 46 Georgia; and which has been in existence in the State of Georgia for at least seven
 47 years.

48 ~~(ii)~~(iii) Any proprietary institution that is otherwise qualified pursuant to division (i)
 49 of this subparagraph on July 1, 1995, shall be deemed to be eligible for receipt of
 50 tuition equalization grant funds subject, however, to any subsequent review of such
 51 approval pursuant to any proper regulations which may thereafter be adopted in
 52 accordance with paragraph (10) of subsection (b) of Code Section 20-3-250.5
 53 applicable to all qualified proprietary institutions.

54 ~~(iii)~~(iv) Any proprietary institution of higher education that is otherwise qualified
 55 pursuant to division (i) of this subparagraph on January 1, 2011, shall continue to be
 56 an approved school pursuant to this paragraph as long as it continues to meet the
 57 requirements of division (i) of this subparagraph as such existed on March 14, 2011."

58

SECTION 3.

59 This Act shall become effective only upon the effective date of a specific appropriation of
60 funds for purposes of this Act, as expressed in a line item making specific reference to such
61 Act in a General Appropriations Act enacted by the General Assembly.

62

SECTION 4.

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