

Senate Bill 279

By: Senators Reed of the 35th, Golden of the 8th, Jones of the 10th and Brown of the 26th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 2 of Article 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to the University System of Georgia, so as to provide a short title; to
3 provide that certain students who apply for admission to member institutions of the
4 University System of Georgia as freshmen and who graduate from certain public or private
5 high schools in this state with a grade point average in the top 10 percent of such student's
6 graduating class shall be automatically admitted; to authorize the Board of Regents to
7 promulgate rules and regulations regarding such admissions; to provide that the Board of
8 Regents and the Georgia Student Finance Commission shall develop a formula for giving
9 extra weight to grades earned in certain classes in calculating a student's high school grade
10 point average; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
11 purposes.

12 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

13 **SECTION 1.**

14 This Act shall be known and may be cited as "Georgia's Promise."

15 **SECTION 2.**

16 Part 2 of Article 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
17 relating to the University System of Georgia, is amended by inserting new Code Sections
18 20-3-88 and 20-3-89 to read as follows:

19 "20-3-88.

20 (a) Beginning with those students admitted for the 2008-2009 academic year, each
21 member institution of the University System of Georgia shall admit an applicant to the
22 institution as a freshman if the applicant:

23 (1) Graduated in one of the two school years immediately preceding the academic year
24 for which the applicant is applying for admission to from an eligible high school, as

1 defined in Code Section 20-3-519, with a grade point average in the top 10 percent of the
2 student's graduating class;

3 (2) Is a resident of the State of Georgia and either is a citizen of the United States or an
4 eligible noncitizen as defined in the federal Title IV requirements;

5 (3) Has been a resident of this state for a period of at least two years immediately
6 preceding July 1 of the year of his or her high school graduation; and

7 (4) Received a college preparatory diploma.

8 To qualify for admission under this Code section, an applicant shall submit an application
9 before the expiration of any application filing deadline established by the institution and
10 shall meet the qualifications of this subsection and all other nonacademic qualifications of
11 the institution.

12 (b) After admitting an applicant under this Code section, the institution shall review the
13 applicant's record and any other factors the institution considers appropriate to determine
14 whether the applicant may require additional preparation for college-level work or would
15 benefit from inclusion in a retention program. The institution may require a student so
16 identified to enroll during the summer immediately after the student is admitted under this
17 Code section to participate in appropriate enrichment courses and orientation programs.
18 This Code section shall not prohibit a student who is not determined to need additional
19 preparation for college-level work from enrolling, if the student so chooses, during the
20 summer immediately after the student is admitted under this Code section.

21 (c) The Board of Regents shall be authorized to adopt rules and regulations relating to the
22 operation of admissions programs under this Code section.

23 20-3-89.

24 The Board of Regents and the Georgia Student Finance Commission shall adopt a common
25 weighting formula for advanced placement and international baccalaureate coursework in
26 calculating high school grade point averages for purposes of implementing the provisions
27 of subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-157 and Code Section 20-3-88."

28 **SECTION 3.**

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