



# DOAA

Georgia Department  
of Audits & Accounts

Greg S. Griffin  
State Auditor

January 18, 2023

Honorable Stacey Evans  
State Representative  
409-D Coverdell Legislative Office Bldg.  
Atlanta, GA 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note  
House Bill (LC 49 1060)

Dear Representative Evans:

This bill would allow students who were initially ineligible for Zell Miller Scholarship to earn the scholarship if they have a college HOPE GPA of 3.3 or higher at the scheduled checkpoints of 30, 60, or 90 attempted hours. Currently, a student must be academically eligible for the Zell Miller Scholarship at the completion of high school. The bill has no effective date.

### Scholarship Costs

Data from the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) shows that the bill would have resulted in additional costs of \$186.3 million in FY 2022 and increasing costs in subsequent years (**Table 1**). GSFC officials determined the number of HOPE Scholarship recipients that had a college GPA of 3.3 or higher at a scheduled checkpoint. The cost was determined by multiplying the number of qualifying students by the average number of awards per year (2.2) and the average difference between Zell and HOPE (\$1,594.14). The number of newly qualifying students is assumed to increase 4% in FY 2023 and 2024, consistent with increases seen in prior year data.

**Table 1. Additional Zell Miller Scholarship Costs under LC 49 1060**

\$ in millions	FY 2022 Cohort		Projected FY 2023 Cohort		Projected FY 2024 Cohort	
	FY 2022 Students	Projected FY 2022 Dollars	Projected FY 2023 Students	Projected FY 2023 Dollars	Projected FY 2024 Students	Projected FY 2024 Dollars
Impact of LC 49 1060	52,384	<b>\$186.3</b>	54,479	<b>\$193.8</b>	56,658	<b>\$201.5</b>

### Administrative Costs

GSFC officials noted that bill would require changes to internal processes, regulations, documents, website design/content, and self-service student dashboard systems. It estimated a minimum of one year to make the required changes and one-time costs of \$200,000.

Respectfully,



Greg S. Griffin  
State Auditor



Kelly Farr, Director  
Office of Planning and Budget

GSG/KF/ay