

Equity in Funding for Georgia's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Act of 2024

Title: *The Georgia HBCU Equitable Funding Act of 2024*

I. Purpose

The purpose of the Georgia HBCU Equitable Funding Act of 2024 is to address and rectify the historical and ongoing inequities in funding between Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and predominantly white institutions (PWIs) within Georgia. This Act acknowledges the critical role HBCUs play in the higher education landscape. It seeks to ensure their financial stability, improve their infrastructure, and enhance their capacity to serve students effectively.

II. Definitions

- **HBCU (Historically Black College or University):** An institution of higher learning established before 1964 with the principal mission of educating African Americans.
- **PWI (Predominantly White Institution):** Any institution of higher learning that is not an HBCU and historically has a majority white student body.
- **Endowment:** A financial asset donation to a non-profit group or institution through investment funds.

III. Scope

This Act shall apply to all public and private HBCUs and PWIs within Georgia receiving state funding.

IV. Provisions

1. **Equitable Funding Formulas:**
 - Revise state funding formulas to allocate resources based on institutions' specific needs and contexts, considering historical disparities.
 - Establish a commission to assess the needs of HBCUs in Georgia and recommend funding amounts annually.
1. **Increase Federal Support:**
 - Collaborate with federal agencies to secure more direct support for HBCUs in infrastructure, research grants, and academic programs.
1. **Endowment Building Initiatives:**

- Introduce state tax incentives for private sector entities contributing to HBCU endowments.
- Match state funds, up to a predetermined limit, for private donations made to HBCU endowments.

1. Infrastructure Loans:

- Establish a low-interest loan program for HBCUs to renovate or construct new facilities.

1. Promotion and Branding:

- Launch a state-sponsored marketing campaign highlighting the historical significance and achievements of HBCUs in Georgia.

1. Collaborative Programs:

- Foster and fund partnerships between HBCUs and PWIs to promote research collaborations, student exchange programs, and shared resources.

1. Accountability Mechanisms:

- Implement regular reviews of funding allocations to ensure compliance with this Act and to adjust for changing needs.

1. Strengthening Alumni Networks:

- Collaborate with HBCUs to develop and promote alumni engagement strategies, emphasizing mentorship, donations, and advocacy.

V. Enforcement

- The Georgia Department of Education shall be responsible for overseeing and enforcing the provisions of this Act.
- An annual audit will assess the funds' distribution and ensure that funds are used for their designated purposes.
- Institutions found to be misusing funds will be subject to penalties, including but not limited to the revocation of state funding.

VI. Amendments to Existing Laws

Any provisions of state law or regulation in contradiction with this Act are hereby repealed or amended to comply with the provisions of this Act.

VII. References

- U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education and Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).

- National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) HBCUs Page.
- Thurgood Marshall College Fund Publications.
- United Negro College Fund Research and Publications.
- The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education.
- The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) Publications.