

Senate Bill 319

By: Senators Jackson of the 2nd and Harbison of the 15th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, so as to  
2 raise the age of mandatory education from 16 to 17 1/2; to revise provisions relating to adult  
3 literacy for purposes of conformity; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws;  
4 and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, is amended by  
8 revising subsection (a) of Code Section 20-2-690.1, relating to mandatory education for  
9 children, as follows:

10 "(a) Mandatory attendance in a public school, private school, or home school program shall  
11 be required for children between ~~their sixth and sixteenth birthdays~~ the ages of six and  
12 17 1/2 years. Such mandatory attendance shall not be required where the child has  
13 successfully completed all requirements for a high school diploma."

14 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

15 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (d) of Code Section 20-4-15, relating to  
16 the establishment of adult literacy programs, as follows:

17 "(d) Individuals shall be eligible for adult literacy services who comply with other  
18 eligibility and attendance requirements as adopted by the state board and who:

19 (1) Are high school graduates or have high school equivalency certificates and who are  
20 deficient in one or more areas of competency offered by adult literacy programs;  
21 provided, however, that no person shall be eligible for a high school equivalency  
22 certificate who has a high school diploma; or

23 (2) Are at least ~~16~~ 17 1/2 years of age and are not high school graduates but who are  
24 capable of attaining basic literacy skills as determined by policies established by the state  
25 board; provided, however, that an individual who is ~~16 or 17~~ 17 1/2 years of age who has not

26 graduated from high school shall present documented evidence that his or her school  
27 system has been notified that he or she has withdrawn from school."

28 **SECTION 3.**

29 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 20-4-18, relating to management and  
30 control of adult literacy and postsecondary technical education programs and schools, as  
31 follows:

32 "20-4-18.

33 Subject to the provisions of Code Section 20-4-20, any other Code section of this article  
34 to the contrary notwithstanding, all decisions regarding the delivery of adult literacy and  
35 postsecondary technical education programs and services to business, industry, and  
36 individuals who are ~~16~~ 17 1/2 years of age or older and who have completed or left the  
37 public schools, ~~to include~~ including the awarding of high school equivalency certificates,  
38 shall be made by the Technical College System of Georgia. Commensurate with this  
39 authority, the system shall exercise state level management and operational control over  
40 adult literacy education programs, postsecondary technical schools, and adult vocational  
41 centers."

42 **SECTION 4.**

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