

Senate Bill 81

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Miller of the 49th, Anderson of the 43rd, Dugan of the 30th, Walker III of the 20th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-4-37 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 Office of College and Career Transitions and powers and duties, so as to change the name
3 of the Office of College and Career Transitions to the Office of College and Career
4 Academies; to provide for increased technical skills; to provide for collaboration between the
5 Technical College System of Georgia and certain entities to support efforts to recruit new
6 industries and expand existing industries; to provide for related matters; to provide for an
7 effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Code Section 20-4-37 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Office of
11 College and Career Transitions and powers and duties, is amended by revising subsections
12 (b), (c), and (g) and by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

13 "(b) As used in this Code section, the term:

14 (1) 'Board' means the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia.

15 (2) 'Certification' means a formal process established by the Office of College and Career
16 ~~Transitions~~ Academies, and approved by the board, in which college and career
17 academies successfully demonstrate appropriate levels of student achievement and

18 technical skill development, community sustainability, work force development, and
19 school level governance.

20 (3) 'Charter petitioner' means a local board of education, group of local boards of
21 education, private individual, private organization, state or local public entity, or any
22 group of these that submits a petition for a charter in cooperation with one or more
23 postsecondary institutions which have petitioned to establish a college and career
24 academy as a charter school pursuant to Article 31 or Article 31A of Chapter 2 of this
25 title.

26 (4) 'Charter school' shall mean the schools included in paragraph (3) of Code Section
27 20-2-2062 and in paragraph (5) of Code Section 20-2-2081.

28 (5) 'College and career academy' means a specialized school established as a charter
29 school or pursuant to a contract for a strategic waivers school system or charter system,
30 which formalizes a partnership that demonstrates a collaboration between business,
31 industry, and community stakeholders to advance the technical skills needed for work
32 force development between one or more local boards of education, a private individual,
33 a private organization, or a state or local public entity in cooperation with one or more
34 postsecondary institutions. A charter school, charter system, or strategic waivers school
35 system contract establishing a college and career academy shall include provisions
36 requiring that the college and career academy have a governing board reflective of the
37 school community and the partnership with decision-making authority and requiring that
38 governing board members complete initial and annual governance training, including, but
39 not limited to, best practices on school governance, the constitutional and statutory
40 requirements relating to public records and meetings, and the requirements of applicable
41 statutes and rules and regulations.

42 (6) 'Office' means the Office of College and Career ~~Transitions~~ Academies established
43 pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section.

44 (7) 'Postsecondary institution' means a local technical college, community college,
45 university, or other postsecondary institution operating under the authority of the
46 Technical College System of Georgia or the University System of Georgia or other not
47 for profit postsecondary institution accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges
48 and Schools.

49 (8) 'Start-up costs' means initial operating or capital costs, including, but not limited to,
50 costs of improving real property.

51 (9) 'Supplemental funding' means funding for purposes other than start-up costs which
52 are related to the establishment and operation of college and career academies.

53 (c) The Office of College and Career ~~Transitions~~ Academies shall be established within
54 the Technical College System of Georgia to coordinate the efforts by the State Board of
55 Education, the University System of Georgia, the Technical College System of Georgia,
56 and other not for profit postsecondary institutions accredited by the Southern Association
57 of Colleges and Schools in the professional development, curriculum support, and
58 development and establishment of college and career academies."

59 "(g)(1) The office shall establish a certification process, in collaboration with the
60 Department of Education, for approval by the board. The office shall be authorized to
61 certify college and career academies. The State Board of Education shall accept
62 certification by the office as one component of determining compliance with charter and
63 strategic waivers school system or charter system contract requirements. The State Board
64 of Education may request supplemental information from charter petitioners, strategic
65 waivers school systems, or charter systems.

66 (2) Any certification process established pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection
67 shall require that the applicant demonstrates how the proposed college and career
68 academy will increase student achievement and technical skill attainment, provide for
69 dual credit and dual enrollment opportunities, increase work based learning opportunities,
70 and address work force development needs; articulates how the collaboration between

71 business, industry, and community stakeholders will advance work force development;
72 demonstrates local governance and autonomy; and shows other benefits that meet the
73 needs of the students and community.

74 (3) Certification by the office shall constitute a positive recommendation to the State
75 Board of Education for renewal of a charter school or charter system pursuant to Code
76 Section 20-2-2064.1 or an extension of a strategic waivers school system contract
77 pursuant to Article 4 of Chapter 2 of this title."

78 "(l) The Technical College System of Georgia shall collaborate with the Workforce
79 Development Board and the Department of Economic Development to support the efforts
80 of College and Career Academies and local economic development partners to assist in the
81 recruitment of new industries and to expand existing industries by, but not limited to,
82 demonstrating the preparation of technically skilled high school graduates to be ready to
83 work within existing industries or industries being recruited to the state."

84 **SECTION 2.**

85 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2022.

86 **SECTION 3.**

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