

Senate Bill 83

By: Senators Jackson of the 2nd, Anderson of the 43rd and Davenport of the 44th

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 attendance in a public school, private school, or home school  
3 program from 16 to 17 1/2; to revise provisions relating to adult literacy for purposes of  
4 conformity; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; 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 between ages six and 16, 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, eligibility, and office of adult literacy, as  
17 follows:

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

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

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

27 has not graduated from high school shall present documented evidence that his or her  
28 school system has been notified that he or she has withdrawn from school."

29 **SECTION 3.**

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

33 "20-4-18.

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

43 **SECTION 4.**

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