

The House Committee on Higher Education offers the following substitute to SB 68:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to technical and adult education, so as to enact the "Career Academies Act of 2007";  
3 to provide for legislative intent; to provide for definitions; to provide for the disbursement  
4 of funds by the State Board of Technical and Adult Education for career academies  
5 established as charter schools; to provide for a matching requirement; to provide for  
6 eligibility criteria; to provide for an annual report; to provide for an effective date; to provide  
7 for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Article 2 of Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
11 technical and adult education, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

12 "20-4-37.

13 (a) This Code section shall be known and may be cited as the 'Career Academies Act of  
14 2007.'

15 (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly to increase graduation rates, potential job  
16 opportunities, and educational opportunities for students by establishing and providing  
17 start-up funds for career academies through the partnership of technical colleges and local  
18 boards of education.

19 (c) As used in this Code section, the term:

20 (1) 'Board' means the State Board of Technical and Adult Education.

21 (2) 'Career academy' means a specialized charter school established by a partnership  
22 between a local board of education, or a group of local boards of education, in  
23 cooperation with a local technical college and approved by the State Board of Education  
24 in accordance with Article 31 of Chapter 2 of this title.

1 (3) 'Charter petitioner' means a local board of education, or a group of local boards of  
2 education, in cooperation with a local technical college which have partnered to establish  
3 a career academy as a charter school pursuant to Article 31 of Chapter 2 of this title.

4 (4) 'Charter school' shall have the same meaning as in paragraph (3) of Code Section  
5 20-2-2062.

6 (5) 'Local technical college' means a local technical school, college, or institute under the  
7 auspices of the Department of Technical and Adult Education.

8 (d) The board shall be authorized to disburse funds, subject to appropriations or other  
9 available funding, to career academies for start-up costs.

10 (e) A charter petitioner for a career academy that has submitted or that has drafted for  
11 submission a charter petition for a career academy to the State Board of Education for  
12 approval shall be authorized to submit to the board an application for start-up funds. The  
13 board shall approve applications for start-up funds for career academies that meet the  
14 criteria and requirements, subject to appropriations or other available funding, established  
15 pursuant to subsection (h) of this Code section. Funds shall not be released to an approved  
16 applicant unless the charter petition is approved by the State Board of Education pursuant  
17 to Article 31 of Chapter 2 of this title.

18 (f) The board shall also be authorized to disburse funds, subject to appropriations or other  
19 available funding, to existing charter career academies which demonstrate a need for  
20 supplemental funding.

21 (g) The board shall establish a matching requirement for recipients of funds under this  
22 Code section.

23 (h) The board shall establish eligibility criteria, requirements, and procedures for the  
24 disbursement of funding to charter academies pursuant to this Code section. Such criteria,  
25 requirements, and procedures shall provide that the board shall consider the strength of the  
26 proposed partnership between the local board of education, or the group of local boards of  
27 education, and the local technical college as well as the active support of the local business  
28 community for the career academy.

29 (i) A career academy receiving funds pursuant to this Code section shall submit an annual  
30 report to the board regarding the expenditure of the funds received pursuant to this Code  
31 section."

## 32 SECTION 2.

33 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
34 without such approval.

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**SECTION 3.**

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