

Senate Bill 510

By: Senators Jackson of the 2nd and Henson of the 41st

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 residential child care licensing, so as to provide for a short title; to provide for legislative
3 findings and purpose; to establish the Georgia Youthbuild Program within the Department
4 of Human Resources; to provide for the authority, duties, and powers of the Department of
5 Human Resources with respect to the Georgia Youthbuild Program; to provide for related
6 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 SECTION 1.

9 Chapter 2 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, residential child care
10 licensing, is amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

11 "ARTICLE 3

12 49-2-30.

13 This article shall be known and may be cited as the 'Georgia Youthbuild Program Act.'

14 49-2-31.

15 The General Assembly finds that there is a need to:

16 (1) Expand the supply of permanent affordable housing for homeless individuals,
17 low-income persons, and special needs populations by utilizing the energies and talents
18 of economically disadvantaged youth;

19 (2) Provide economically disadvantaged youth with opportunities for meaningful work
20 and service to their communities in helping to meet the housing needs of homeless
21 individuals, low-income persons, and special needs populations;

22 (3) Enable economically disadvantaged youth to obtain the education and employment
23 skills necessary to achieve economic self-sufficiency; and

24 (4) Foster the development of leadership skills and commitment to community
 25 development among youth in designated community empowerment zones.

26 49-2-32.

27 As used in this article, the term:

28 (1) 'Applicant' means a public or private nonprofit organization agency eligible to
 29 provide education and employment training under federal or state employment training
 30 programs.

31 (2) 'Commissioner' means the commissioner of the Department of Human Resources.

32 (3) 'Department' means the Department of Human Resources.

33 (4) 'Participant' means an individual who is:

34 (A) Sixteen to 24 years of age, inclusive;

35 (B) A member of a low-income household; and

36 (C) Neither attending any school nor subject to a compulsory attendance law and who
 37 has not received a secondary school diploma or a certificate of equivalency for such
 38 diploma.

39 (5) 'Low-income household' means a person or household whose income is at or below
 40 50 percent of the median family income for the county where the household is located.

41 (6) 'Youthbuild' means a program that provides disadvantaged youth with opportunities
 42 for employment, education, leadership development, entrepreneurial skills development,
 43 and training in the construction or rehabilitation of housing for special needs populations
 44 or low-income households.

45 49-2-33.

46 The Georgia Youthbuild Program is established within the Department of Human
 47 Resources. Subject to appropriations or available gifts, grants, or other sources of revenue,
 48 the commissioner shall:

49 (1) Make grants to applicants eligible to provide education and employment training
 50 under federal or state employment training programs for the purpose of carrying out a
 51 wide range of multidisciplinary activities and services to assist economically
 52 disadvantaged youth under a federal Youthbuild Program or state or locally developed
 53 Youthbuild Program for economically disadvantaged youth; and

54 (2) Coordinate youth employment and training efforts under the department's jurisdiction
 55 and cooperate with other agencies and departments providing youth services to ensure
 56 that funds appropriated for the purposes of this article will be used to supplement funding
 57 from federal, state, local, or private sources.

58 49-2-34.

59 (a) Grants made under this article shall be used to fund an applicant's activities to
60 implement a comprehensive education and employment skills training program.

61 (b) Activities eligible for assistance under this chapter include education and job skills
62 training services and activities that include:

63 (1) Work experience and skills training, coordinated to the maximum extent feasible,
64 with preapprenticeship and apprenticeship programs in construction and rehabilitation
65 trades;

66 (2) Services and activities designed to meet the educational needs of participants,
67 including basic skills instruction and remedial education, bilingual education for
68 participants with limited English proficiency, secondary education services and activities
69 designed to lead to the attainment of a high school diploma or its equivalent, and
70 counseling and assistance in attaining postsecondary education and required financial aid;

71 (3) Counseling services and related activities;

72 (4) Activities designed to develop employment and leadership skills;

73 (5) Support services and need based stipends necessary to enable the participant to
74 participate in the program and to assist participants through support services in retaining
75 employment;

76 (6) Wage stipends and benefits provided to participants; and

77 (7) Administrative costs of the applicant not to exceed 5 percent of the amount of
78 assistance provided under this article.

79 49-2-35.

80 (a) An individual selected as a participant in the Georgia Youthbuild Program may be
81 offered full-time participation for a period of not less than six months and not more than
82 24 months.

83 (b) An applicant's program that is selected for funding under this article shall be structured
84 so that approximately 50 percent of the time spent by the participants in the Youthbuild
85 Program is devoted to educational services and activities.

86 49-2-36.

87 (a) An application for a grant under this article shall be submitted by the applicant in such
88 form and in accordance with the requirements as determined by the commissioner.

89 (b) An application for a grant under this article shall contain at a minimum the following:

90 (1) The amount of the grant request and its proposed use;

91 (2) A description of the applicant and a statement of the participant's qualifications,
92 including a description of the applicant's past experience with housing rehabilitation or

- 93 construction with youth and youth education and employment training programs, and its
94 relationship with community groups;
95 (3) A description of the proposed site for the program;
96 (4) A description of the educational and job training activities, work opportunities, and
97 other services that will be provided to participants;
98 (5) A description of the proposed construction or rehabilitation activities to be
99 undertaken and the anticipated schedule for carrying out such activities;
100 (6) A description of the manner in which eligible participants will be recruited and
101 selected, including a description of arrangements which will be made with federal or state
102 agencies, community based organizations, local school districts, the courts of jurisdiction
103 for youth offenders, shelters for homeless individuals and other agencies that serve
104 homeless youth, foster care agencies, and other appropriate public and private agencies;
105 (7) A description of how the proposed program will be coordinated with other federal,
106 state, local, and private resources and programs, including vocational, adult, and bilingual
107 education programs and job training programs;
108 (8) Assurances that there will be a sufficient number of adequately trained supervisory
109 personnel in the program who have attained the level of journeyman or have served an
110 apprenticeship through an approved apprenticeship training program;
111 (9) A description of the relationship of the Georgia Youthbuild Program with established
112 apprenticeship and training programs;
113 (10) A description of the commitments for any additional resources to be made available
114 to the local program from the applicant, from recipients of other federal, state, local, or
115 from private sources; and
116 (11) Other factors the commissioner deems necessary.

117 49-2-37.

- 118 (a) An applicant selected for funding under this article shall provide the department
119 information on program and participant accomplishments. The information shall be
120 provided in the form of progress and final reports as requested by the department.
121 (b) The department shall prepare an initial evaluation report which shall be made available
122 to the Governor and appropriate legislative committees on the progress of individual
123 programs funded under this article. A final evaluation report shall be prepared on
124 individual programs at the times of their completion. The final evaluation report shall
125 include, but shall not be limited to, information on the effectiveness of the program, the
126 status of program participants, and recommendations on program administration at the state
127 and local levels."

128

SECTION 2.

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