

House Bill 149

By: Representatives Jones of the 46th, Hembree of the 67th, Dempsey of the 13th, Powell of the 171st, and Harden of the 147th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 4 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to financing under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to enact the
3 "Move on When Ready Act"; to provide for definitions; to provide a program for eleventh
4 and twelfth grade students to attend postsecondary colleges and schools for high school
5 credit; to provide for notice to parents and students of the program; to provide requirements
6 for course credit; to provide for state funding; to provide for testing; to provide for related
7 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 This Act shall be known and may be referred to as the "Move on When Ready Act."

11 **SECTION 2.**

12 Part 4 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
13 relating to financing under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended by adding a new
14 Code section to read as follows:

15 "20-2-161.3.

16 (a) For purposes of this Code section, the term:

17 (1) 'Department' means the Department of Education.

18 (2) 'Eligible institution' or 'institution' means any of the following located within
19 Georgia: any two-year or four-year degree-granting public college or university; any state
20 operated postsecondary technical institution; or, for those eligible students who live more
21 than 25 miles from a degree-granting public college or university, any two-year or
22 four-year regionally accredited degree-granting nonproprietary college or university.

23 (3) 'Eligible student' means a student entering eleventh or twelfth grade who spent the
24 prior school year in attendance at a public high school in this state.

25 (4) 'Prior school year in attendance' means that the student was enrolled in and reported
26 by a public school system or school systems for funding purposes during the preceding
27 October and March full-time equivalent (FTE) program counts in accordance with Code
28 Section 20-2-160.

29 (5) 'Program' means the arrangement authorized by this Code section whereby an eligible
30 student enrolls full time at an eligible institution and receives secondary credit from his
31 or her high school with the goal of completing graduation and high school diploma
32 requirements.

33 (6) 'Secondary credit' means high school credit for courses taken at an eligible institution
34 under the program.

35 (b) Any eligible student may apply to an eligible institution to enroll full time in courses
36 which are offered at that institution and which are approved for secondary credit pursuant
37 to subsection (d) of this Code section. If accepted at an eligible institution, such eligible
38 student may take any such approved course at that institution, whether or not the course is
39 taught during the regular public school day, and receive secondary credit therefor under the
40 conditions provided in this Code section. An eligible institution which accepts an eligible
41 student authorized to apply for enrollment under the program shall not receive any state
42 funds for that student unless such institution complies with the requirements of this Code
43 section regarding eligible institutions.

44 (c) No later than the first day of April each year, each local school system shall provide
45 general information about the program to all its tenth and eleventh grade students. A local
46 school system shall also provide counseling services to such students and their parents or
47 guardians before the students enroll in the program. Prior to participating in the program,
48 the student and the student's parents or guardians shall sign a form that shall be provided
49 by the school system or may be provided by an eligible institution stating that they have
50 received the counseling specified in this subsection and that they understand the
51 responsibilities that shall be assumed in participating in the program. The department shall
52 develop appropriate forms and counseling guidelines for the program.

53 (d)(1) A local school system shall grant academic credit to an eligible student enrolled
54 in a course in an eligible institution if that course has been approved by the department
55 and if such student successfully completes that course. The secondary credit granted shall
56 be for the comparable course and course hours approved by the department. Upon
57 completion of an eligible institution's approved course, the eligible student shall be
58 responsible for requesting that the institution notify the student's local school system
59 regarding his or her grade in that course.

60 (2) Secondary school credits granted for eligible institution courses under paragraph (1)
61 of this subsection shall be counted toward State Board of Education graduation

62 requirements and subject area requirements of the local school system. Evidence of
63 successful completion of each course and secondary credits granted shall be included in
64 the eligible student's secondary school records.

65 (3) The department shall develop the necessary rules to require local school systems to
66 award a high school diploma to any eligible student who is enrolled at an eligible
67 institution under the program as long as the credit earned at such institution satisfies
68 course requirements needed for the eligible student to complete high school graduation.
69 The department shall consult the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia
70 and the State Board of Technical and Adult Education in developing rules and regulations
71 regarding the eligibility criteria for program participation.

72 (e)(1) The department shall pay to eligible institutions through appropriation of state funds
73 the lesser of the following amounts for each participating eligible student enrolled therein,
74 less a records fee of \$200.00 for administration costs of the local school system:

75 (A) The actual cost of tuition, materials, and fees directly related to the courses taken
76 by the eligible student at such institution; or

77 (B) The amount that the participating eligible student would have earned under this
78 article if he or she had been in equivalent instructional programs in the local school
79 system for a full instructional day.

80 (2) The total allotment of state funds to the local school system in which a participating
81 student is enrolled at an eligible institution pursuant to this Code section shall be
82 calculated as otherwise provided in this article with an ensuing reduction equivalent to
83 the amount of state funds appropriated to such eligible institution pursuant to this
84 subsection.

85 (3) The records fee contained in paragraph (1) of this subsection may be increased by the
86 State Board of Education annually, at the board's sole discretion.

87 (4) An eligible institution shall not charge an eligible student for coursework taken
88 pursuant to this program and shall accept the payment made pursuant to paragraph (1) of
89 this subsection as full payment for such eligible student.

90 (f) The State Board of Education shall establish rules and regulations relating to applicable
91 state and federal testing requirements for eligible students participating in the program.

92 (g) An eligible student enrolled in an eligible institution for secondary credit shall not be
93 eligible for any other state student financial aid at an eligible institution for courses taken
94 under the program.

95 (h) Hours for courses taken at an eligible institution pursuant to this Code section by a
96 participating eligible student shall not count against any maximum hourly caps which may
97 be applicable for purposes of HOPE scholarships or grants.

98 (i) Any person who knowingly makes or furnishes any false statement or
99 misrepresentation, or who accepts such statement or misrepresentation knowing it to be
100 false, for the purpose of enabling an eligible institution to obtain wrongfully any payment
101 under this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor."

102 **SECTION 3.**

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