

Senate Bill 161

By: Senators Butterworth of the 50th, Grant of the 25th, McKoon of the 29th, Hill of the 4th and Sims of the 12th

**AS PASSED SENATE**

**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 provide for college and career academies;  
3 to provide for legislative intent; to provide for definitions; to establish an Office of College  
4 and Career Transitions; to provide for partnerships with postsecondary institutions to  
5 establish college and career academies as charter schools; to provide for funding; to provide  
6 for certification; to provide for data collection; to provide for eligibility criteria,  
7 requirements, and procedures; to provide for annual reporting; to provide for advisement; to  
8 amend Part 16 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia  
9 Annotated, relating to the "Building Resourceful Individuals to Develop Georgia's Economy  
10 Act," so as to revise definitions; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective  
11 date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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

13 **SECTION 1.**

14 Article 2 of Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
15 technical and adult education, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:  
16 "20-4-37.

17 (a)(1) It is the intent of the General Assembly to:

18 (A) Increase high school graduation rates, potential job opportunities, and educational  
19 opportunities that will prepare students for success in college and the workplace;

20 (B) Establish intergovernmental cooperation between postsecondary institutions and  
21 local boards of education and collaboration with business, industry, and community  
22 stakeholders to aid relevant education programs and in the development and support of  
23 new and existing college and career academies in Georgia;

24 (C) Assist in the development of academic and career ready curriculum;

25 (D) Establish and manage support grant opportunities and awards for new and existing  
26 college and career academies;

27 (E) Establish a process that allows for college and career academy certification; and  
28 (F) Collect and analyze data to evaluate the effectiveness of dual credit and dual  
29 enrollment programs, secondary and postsecondary partnerships, and college and career  
30 academics.

31 (2) The General Assembly finds that to accomplish these goals, an office should be  
32 established to coordinate the efforts of the various education agencies.

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

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

35 (2) 'Certification' means a formal process established by the Office of College and Career  
36 Transitions, and approved by the board, in which college and career academies  
37 successfully demonstrate appropriate levels of student achievement, community  
38 sustainability, workforce development, and school level governance.

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

45 (4) 'Charter school' shall have the same meaning as in paragraph (3) of Code Section  
46 20-2-2062 and as in paragraph (2) of Code Section 20-2-2081.

47 (5) 'College and career academy' means a specialized charter school established by a  
48 partnership which demonstrates a collaboration between business, industry, and  
49 community stakeholders to advance workforce development between one or more local  
50 boards of education, a private individual, a private organization, or a state or local public  
51 entity in cooperation with one or more postsecondary institutions and approved by the  
52 State Board of Education in accordance with Article 31 of Chapter 2 of this title or the  
53 Georgia Charter Schools Commission in accordance with Article 31A of Chapter 2 of this  
54 title.

55 (6) 'Office' means the Office of College and Career Transitions established pursuant to  
56 subsection (c) of this Code section.

57 (7) 'Postsecondary institution' means a local technical college, community college,  
58 university, or other postsecondary institution operating under the authority of the  
59 Technical College System of Georgia or the University System of Georgia or other not  
60 for profit postsecondary institution accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges  
61 and Schools.

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

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

66 (c) The Office of College and Career Transitions shall be established within the Technical  
67 College System of Georgia to coordinate the efforts by the State Board of Education, the  
68 University System of Georgia, the Technical College System of Georgia, and other not for  
69 profit postsecondary institutions accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and  
70 Schools in the professional development, curriculum support, and development and  
71 establishment of college and career academies.

72 (d) Supplementary to and without limitation of other authority, the board shall be  
73 authorized to allocate funds, including state funds, federal funds, proceeds of general  
74 obligation debt, or any other available funds, for a particular purpose for college and career  
75 academies for start-up costs or for other purposes related to the establishment and operation  
76 of such academies by a grant consideration process.

77 (e) A charter petitioner for a college and career academy that has submitted for approval  
78 or that has drafted for submission for approval a charter petition for a college and career  
79 academy shall be authorized to submit to the board an application for start-up funds for a  
80 college and career academy. The board shall approve applications for start-up funds for  
81 college and career academies that meet the criteria and requirements established pursuant  
82 to subsections (i) and (j) of this Code section. As part of such application process, the  
83 office shall consider charter applications for college and career academies in cooperation  
84 with the Office of Charter School Compliance and make recommendations to the State  
85 Board of Education for the approval, denial, and renewal of college and career academy  
86 charter petitions and specify the reasons for such recommendations. The State Board of  
87 Education should consider such a recommendation from the office prior to approving or  
88 denying a charter petition for a college and career academy. Funds shall not be released  
89 to an approved applicant unless the charter petition is approved by the State Board of  
90 Education pursuant to Article 31 of Chapter 2 of this title or the Georgia Charter Schools  
91 Commission in accordance with Article 31A of Chapter 2 of this title.

92 (f) The board shall be authorized to disburse supplemental funding to existing or new  
93 college and career academies which demonstrate a need for such funding.

94 (g)(1) The office shall establish a certification process, in collaboration with the  
95 Department of Education, for approval by the board. The office shall be authorized to  
96 certify college and career academies. The State Board of Education shall accept  
97 certification by the office as one component of determining compliance with charter  
98 requirements. The State Board of Education may request supplemental information from  
99 charter petitioners.

100 (2) Any certification process established pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection  
 101 must require that the applicant demonstrates how the proposed college and career  
 102 academy will increase student achievement, provide for dual credit and dual enrollment  
 103 opportunities, increase work based learning opportunities, and address workforce  
 104 development needs; articulates how the collaboration between business, industry, and  
 105 community stakeholders will advance workforce development; demonstrates local  
 106 governance and autonomy; and shows other benefits that meet the needs of the students  
 107 and community.

108 (3) Certification by the office shall constitute a positive recommendation to the State  
 109 Board of Education for renewal of a charter pursuant to Code Section 20-2-2064.1.

110 (h) The office shall be responsible for collecting and analyzing appropriate data from and  
 111 about college and career academies on matters consisting of but not limited to college and  
 112 career academy effectiveness. Collecting and reporting of data shall be in coordination  
 113 with the Office of Charter School Compliance.

114 (i) The board shall establish eligibility criteria, requirements, and procedures for the  
 115 disbursement of funding to college and career academies pursuant to this Code section.  
 116 Such criteria, requirements, and procedures shall consider the strength of the proposed  
 117 cooperative arrangements between the local board of education, the group of local boards  
 118 of education, a private individual, a private organization, or a state or local public entity  
 119 and one or more postsecondary institutions and must include active support from and a  
 120 partnership with local business and community leaders for the college and career academy.  
 121 The board may establish a matching requirement for recipients of funds under this Code  
 122 section.

123 (j) A college and career academy receiving funds pursuant to this Code section shall  
 124 submit an annual report to the board regarding the performance of such academy and the  
 125 expenditure of funds received pursuant to this Code section. The report shall include, but  
 126 not be limited to, academic data, financial statements, an evaluation of the progress relative  
 127 to relationships between and among the business, industry, and community stakeholders,  
 128 and any other information requested by the board to demonstrate the yearly progress or  
 129 effectiveness of the college and career academy.

130 (k) Representatives from business, industry, civic, and governmental agencies and  
 131 educational organizations which are designated by the commissioner of the Technical  
 132 College System of Georgia shall advise the board on matters pertaining to both the  
 133 certification and governance of college and career academies."

134 **SECTION 2.**

135 Part 16 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,

136 relating to the "Building Resourceful Individuals to Develop Georgia's Economy Act," is  
 137 amended in Code Section 20-2-326, relating to definitions, by revising paragraphs (2) and  
 138 (9) as follows:

139 "(2) 'Career College and career academy' means a specialized charter school established  
 140 by a partnership which demonstrates a collaboration between business, industry, and  
 141 community stakeholders to advance workforce development between one or more local  
 142 boards of education, a private individual, a private organization, or a state or local public  
 143 entity in cooperation with one or more postsecondary institutions ~~and a technical school~~  
 144 ~~or college~~ and approved by the State Board of Education in accordance with Article 31  
 145 of this chapter or the Georgia Charter Schools Commission in accordance with Article  
 146 31A of this chapter. ~~This term also includes a small learning community where a student~~  
 147 ~~receives academic instruction at his or her assigned high school combined with work~~  
 148 ~~based learning opportunities at an industry center or technical school or college."~~

149 "(9) 'Small learning community' means an autonomous or semiautonomous small  
 150 learning environment within a large high school which is made up of a subset of students  
 151 and teachers for a two, three, or four-year period. The goal of a small learning  
 152 community is to achieve greater personalization of learning with each community led by  
 153 a principal or instructional leader. A small learning community blends academic studies  
 154 around a broad career or academic theme where teachers have common planning time to  
 155 connect teacher assignments and assessments to college and career readiness standards.  
 156 Students voluntarily apply for enrollment in a small learning community but must be  
 157 accepted, and such enrollment must be approved by the student's parent or guardian. A  
 158 small learning community also includes a college and career academy organized around  
 159 a specific career theme which integrates academic and career instruction, provides  
 160 work-based learning opportunities, and prepares students for postsecondary education and  
 161 employment, with support through partnerships with local employers, community  
 162 organizations, and postsecondary institutions."

163 **SECTION 3.**

164 Said part is further amended in Code Section 20-2-328 of the Official Code of Georgia  
 165 Annotated, relating to a competitive grant program, by revising paragraph (3) of subsection  
 166 (c) as follows:

167 "(3) Developing small learning communities or college and career academies with a  
 168 rigorous academic foundation and emphasis in broad career fields of study;"

169 **SECTION 4.**

170 Said part is further amended in Code Section 20-2-329 of the Official Code of Georgia

171 Annotated, relating to requirements for high schools that receive a reform grant, by revising  
172 paragraph (1) as follows:

173 "(1) Provide focused programs of study which are designed to provide a well-rounded  
174 education for students by fostering artistic creativity, critical thinking, and self-discipline  
175 through the teaching of academic content, knowledge, and skills that students will use in  
176 the workplace, further education, and life. The focused programs of study, whether  
177 provided at a choice technical high school, a college and career academy, a traditional  
178 high school, or on site at a technical school or college or a public college or university,  
179 shall be aligned with graduation requirements established by the State Board of Education  
180 and curriculum requirements established pursuant to Part 2 of this article, including, at  
181 a minimum, four years of mathematics, Algebra I and higher, and four years of English,  
182 with an emphasis on developing reading and writing skills to meet college and career  
183 readiness standards;"

184 **SECTION 5.**

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

187 **SECTION 6.**

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