

House Bill 500 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Pruett of the 144th, England of the 108th, Hembree of the 67th, Harden of the 28th, Carter of the 175th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 14 of Title 34 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 Georgia Workforce Investment Board, so as to provide for the administration of the Georgia
3 Work Ready program by the Governor's Office of Workforce Development; to provide for
4 support of the Georgia Work Ready program by the Department of Labor and the
5 Department of Economic Development; to provide for definitions; to provide for related
6 matters; to provide for an effective date and applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
7 other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 SECTION 1.

10 Chapter 14 of Title 34 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Georgia
11 Workforce Investment Board, is amended by revising Code Section 34-14-1, relating to
12 definitions, as follows:

13 "34-14-1.

14 As used in this chapter, the term:

15 (1) 'Board' means the Georgia Workforce Investment Board.

16 (2) 'Director' means the executive director of the Governor's Office of Workforce
17 Development.

18 (3) 'Federal law' means the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, Public Law 105-220.

19 (4) 'Georgia Work Ready' or 'program' means the state's branded workforce development
20 enterprise administered and implemented by the Governor's Office of Workforce
21 Development that:

22 (A) Links ~~links~~ education and workforce development together and aligns to the
23 economic development needs at the local, regional, and state levels; and

24 (B) Provides a system of educational and workforce development tools, skills gap
25 training, job profiling, and skills assessments based on nationally recognized career and
26 workforce readiness evaluations and standards.

27 (5) 'Office' means the Governor's Office of Workforce Development."

28 **SECTION 2.**

29 Said chapter is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

30 "34-14-5.

31 (a) The Governor's Office of Workforce Development shall, with the approval of the
 32 board, institute the Georgia Work Ready program. The implementation and operation of
 33 the program shall be subject to available federal funding as provided for in Code Section
 34 34-14-4. The program shall be made available to job seekers free of charge. As a part of
 35 the program, the office shall implement and administer a work readiness computer training
 36 course that will include an educational component for job seekers on accessing the
 37 program, skills gap training, and how to complete an on-line job application. The
 38 Technical College System of Georgia shall provide to the office such services and locations
 39 needed by the office for delivery of the program to the public.

40 (b) Under the Georgia Work Ready program the office shall:

41 (1) Develop and make available information regarding the program's workforce
 42 development tools and educational materials available to job seekers in Georgia. The
 43 office shall also develop and make available information regarding the Georgia Work
 44 Ready program related to educating potential employers about the benefits of hiring
 45 individuals who have participated in the program or become work ready certified. The
 46 information described in this paragraph shall be distributed to both the Department of
 47 Labor and the Department of Economic Development; and

48 (2) Collect and disseminate data for purposes of evaluating the effectiveness of the
 49 program. Beginning July 1, 2012, and annually thereafter, the Department of Labor shall
 50 collect and provide to the office data regarding the employment status of persons who
 51 have participated in the program. The Department of Labor shall provide such other
 52 information that may be reasonably obtained that is determined by the office to be
 53 necessary for the evaluation of the effectiveness of the program. The office shall
 54 disseminate its evaluation of the program to the Department of Labor and the Department
 55 of Economic Development annually beginning January 1, 2013. The office, departments,
 56 and Technical College System of Georgia shall work cooperatively to provide support for
 57 the office's annual report.

58 (c) Provided that the program is operational, the Department of Labor shall make the
 59 information provided by the office pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of this Code
 60 section available to persons receiving unemployment benefits. The information shall be
 61 made available electronically and through the department's career centers or at such other

62 locations reasonably likely to make such information available to the greatest number of
63 unemployed persons seeking jobs.

64 (d) Provided that the Georgia Work Ready program is operational, the Department of
65 Economic Development shall make the information provided by the office pursuant to
66 paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of this Code section available to businesses and industry.

67 Such information shall be made available electronically and by such other means as the
68 department shall determine reasonably likely to educate employers regarding the benefits
69 of hiring persons who have participated in or become certified under the program.

70 (f) The board is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations for purposes of
71 implementing the requirements of this Code section."

72 **SECTION 3.**

73 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2011.

74 **SECTION 4.**

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