

Senate Bill 312

By: Senators Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd, Albers of the 56th, Carter of the 1st and Williams of the 19th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to public
2 assistance, so as to require applicants for food stamps and temporary assistance for needy
3 families to engage in personal growth activities; to provide for applicability; to provide for
4 exemptions; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for related matters; to repeal
5 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to public assistance,
9 is amended in Article 1, relating to general provisions, by adding a new Code section to read
10 as follows:

11 "49-4-20.

12 (a) In order to be eligible for food stamps, an applicant shall engage in personal growth
13 activities, which may include, but not be limited to, working toward a general educational
14 development (GED) diploma, if not a high school graduate; pursuing technical education;
15 attending self-development classes; and enrolling in an adult literacy class.

16 (b) The department shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement the requirements
17 of this Code section.

18 (c) This Code section shall not apply to an applicant who is employed at least 40 hours per
19 week.

20 (d) The commissioner may, by regulation, waive or alter the requirements of this Code
21 section for cases or situations in which the commissioner finds that compliance with the
22 requirements would be oppressive or inconsistent with the purposes of this article."

23

SECTION 2.

24 Said chapter is further amended in Article 9, relating to temporary assistance for needy
25 families, by revising paragraph (4) of subsection (b) of Code Section 49-4-183, relating to
26 the administration of the "Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Act," as follows:

27 "(4) Personal responsibility obligations and work activity requirements consistent with
28 Part A of Title IV of the federal Social Security Act, as amended, and the state plan,
29 provided that programs included in the personal responsibility obligations established by
30 the board shall include counseling on abstinence until marriage and personal growth
31 activities, which may include, but not be limited to, working toward a general educational
32 development (GED) diploma, if not a high school graduate; pursuing technical education;
33 attending self-development classes; and enrolling in an adult literacy class;"

34

SECTION 3.

35 The Department of Human Services shall take any necessary steps to revise any applicable
36 state plan or rules and regulations to effectuate the requirements of this Act.

37

SECTION 4.

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