

Senate Bill 329

By: Senators Tippins of the 37th, Jones of the 25th, Ginn of the 47th and Orrock of the 36th

**AS PASSED**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to expand provisions relating to awarding  
3 of high school diplomas based on certain dual credit coursework; to provide that students  
4 who earn high school diplomas based on postsecondary coursework meet the rigor  
5 requirements for HOPE scholarships; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting  
6 laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
10 "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended in Code Section 20-2-149.2, relating to awarding  
11 of high school diploma for completion of postsecondary programs, by revising subsection  
12 (a) as follows:

13 "20-2-149.2.

14 (a) A local board of education may award a high school diploma to a student enrolled in  
15 coursework pursuant to Code Section ~~20-2-159.5~~ 20-2-161.3 who:

16 (1) Completes rigorous coursework at a postsecondary institution which meets the  
17 requirements in paragraph (7) of Code Section 20-3-519;

18 (2) Has completed at least the following state required ninth and tenth grade level high  
19 school courses: two English courses, two mathematics courses, two science courses, two  
20 social studies courses, and one health and physical education course; and any state  
21 required tests associated with any such courses;

22 (3) Receives a score of admission acceptable on the readiness assessment required by the  
23 postsecondary institution; and

24 (4) Completes: (i) an associate degree program; (ii) a technical college diploma program  
25 and all postsecondary academic education and technical education and training  
26 prerequisites for any state, national, or industry occupational certifications or licenses

27 required to work in the field; or (iii) at least two technical college certificate of credit  
 28 programs in one specific career pathway and all postsecondary academic education and  
 29 technical education and training prerequisites for any state, national, or industry  
 30 occupational certifications or licenses required to work in the field as determined by the  
 31 Technical College System of Georgia or for any industry and job related skills requisite  
 32 for a work force need identified by the State Board of the Technical College System of  
 33 Georgia pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of this Code section.

34 (b)(1) The State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia shall annually  
 35 identify fields of study in which a critical need or shortage of trained personnel exists in  
 36 the labor markets in this state and provide such information to the State Board of  
 37 Education. The State Board of Education shall annually provide such information to  
 38 local school systems for the purpose of emphasizing areas of critical ~~workforce~~ work  
 39 force needs and shortages in the labor markets in our state to high school students to  
 40 support their career pathway decisions.

41 (2) The State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia shall consult with  
 42 Georgia industry associations, the Georgia Department of Labor, and other state  
 43 recognized strategic work force industries and initiatives to determine the technical  
 44 college certificate of credit programs that meet the requirements enumerated in division  
 45 (iii) of paragraph (4) of subsection (a) of this Code section for industry and job related  
 46 skills requisite for a work force need and ensure that such programs are instructionally  
 47 rigorous, operate in accordance with industry standards, and provide quality training.

48 (c) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the State Board of the Technical  
 49 College System of Georgia and the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia,  
 50 shall establish rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Code section.

51 (d) A student who meets the requirements of subsection (a) of this Code section shall be  
 52 deemed to have met all graduation requirements of the State Board of Education and shall  
 53 not be subject to any assessments otherwise required for purposes of graduation."

54 **SECTION 2.**

55 Said article is further amended in Code Section 20-2-157, relating to the uniform reporting  
 56 system for certain purposes and academic eligibility requirements to receive a HOPE  
 57 scholarship, by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

58 "(h) A student who receives a diploma pursuant to Code Section 20-2-149.2 shall be  
 59 deemed to have met all rigor requirements contained in subsection (e) or (f) of this Code  
 60 section."

61 **SECTION 3.**

62 Said article is further amended in Code Section 20-2-161.3, relating to the Move on When  
 63 Ready Act, by revising paragraph (3) of subsection (f) as follows:

64 "(3) A participating eligible high school shall be required to award a high school diploma  
 65 to any eligible high school student who is enrolled at or through an eligible postsecondary  
 66 institution under the program as long as the credit earned at or through such  
 67 postsecondary institution satisfies course requirements needed for the eligible high school  
 68 student to complete high school graduation. The State Board of Education, in  
 69 consultation with the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia and the  
 70 Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, shall determine appropriate  
 71 courses to meet these requirements. No later than July 1, 2015, the Department of  
 72 Education shall communicate to high schools the subject area requirements or elective  
 73 courses that may be satisfied with dual credit courses provided by eligible postsecondary  
 74 institutions, which shall include completion of:

75 (A) At least the following state required ninth and tenth grade level high school courses  
 76 or their equivalent: two English courses, two mathematics courses, two science courses,  
 77 two social studies courses, and one health and physical education course; and any state  
 78 required tests associated with any such courses; and

79 (B) One of the following:

80 (i) An associate degree program;

81 (ii) A technical college diploma program and all postsecondary academic education  
 82 and technical education and training prerequisites for any state, national, or industry  
 83 occupational certifications or licenses required to work in the field; or

84 (iii) At least two technical college certificate of credit programs in one specific career  
 85 pathway and all postsecondary academic education and technical education and  
 86 training prerequisites for any state, national, or industry occupational certifications or  
 87 licenses required to work in the field as determined by the Technical College System  
 88 of Georgia or for any industry and job related skills requisite for a work force need  
 89 identified by the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia pursuant to  
 90 paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-149.2."

91 **SECTION 4.**

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