

Senate Bill 330

By: Senators Wilkinson of the 50th, Mullis of the 53rd, Walker III of the 20th, Black of the 8th, Burke of the 11th and others

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 provide that the agricultural education  
3 program in this state is based on a three-component model; to provide for a pilot program to  
4 develop and implement agricultural education in elementary schools; to provide for selection  
5 of pilot sites; to provide for program requirements; to provide for a program evaluation; to  
6 provide for the Professional Standards Commission to extend in-field certification for  
7 agricultural education to include kindergarten through grade five; to provide for related  
8 matters; to provide for a short title; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting  
9 laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Green Agricultural Education Act."

13 **SECTION 2.**

14 Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
15 "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended by adding new Code sections to Part 3, relating  
16 to educational programs, to read as follows:

17 "20-2-154.2.

18 The agricultural education program provided in this state shall be based on the nationally  
19 recognized three-component model of school based agricultural education: daily instruction  
20 in an organized classroom and lab environment; hands-on, real-world learning  
21 opportunities through the supervised agriculture experience (SAE) program; and leadership  
22 and learning opportunities through participation in the Future Farmers of America. The  
23 curriculum for the agricultural education program shall include equal portions of each of  
24 the three components of such model and shall be established by the Department of  
25 Education with input from agricultural education teachers.

26 20-2-154.3.

27 (a) The Department of Education, through its agricultural education program, shall be  
 28 authorized to establish a pilot program, beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, to provide  
 29 for agricultural education in elementary schools in this state. The purpose of the pilot  
 30 program shall be to determine whether and how to implement an elementary agricultural  
 31 education program state wide.

32 (b) The Department of Education, through its agricultural education program, is authorized  
 33 to select six public elementary schools for participation in the pilot program, with one  
 34 elementary school in each of the six existing regions established by the agricultural  
 35 education program of the Department of Education. The local board of education for each  
 36 elementary school selected to be in the pilot program shall agree to implement an  
 37 elementary agricultural education program in such school and to continue to provide such  
 38 elementary agricultural education program after the expiration of the pilot program. The  
 39 local school system may employ an agricultural education teacher to provide such program  
 40 for the elementary school.

41 (c) The pilot program shall be based on the nationally recognized three-component model  
 42 of school based agricultural education: daily instruction in an organized classroom and lab  
 43 environment; hands-on, real-world learning opportunities through the supervised  
 44 agriculture experience (SAE) program; and leadership and learning opportunities through  
 45 participation in the Future Farmers of America. The curriculum for the elementary  
 46 agricultural education program shall include equal portions of each of the three components  
 47 of such model. The curriculum for the elementary agricultural education program shall be  
 48 established by the Department of Education with input from agricultural education  
 49 teachers.

50 (d) The Department of Education, through its agricultural education program, shall provide  
 51 for a program evaluation regarding the success and impact of the pilot program upon  
 52 completion of the third year of the pilot program and shall report the results of such  
 53 evaluation to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Education and Youth  
 54 Committee."

55 **SECTION 3.**

56 Said article is further amended in Code Section 20-2-200, relating to regulation of  
 57 certificated professional personnel by the Professional Standards Commission, by adding a  
 58 new paragraph to subsection (b) to read as follows:

59 "(6) No later than July 1, 2018, the Professional Standards Commission shall extend  
 60 in-field certification for agricultural education to include kindergarten through grade  
 61 five."

62 **SECTION 4.**

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

65 **SECTION 5.**

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