

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE TO SENATE BILL 139

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 3 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
 2 Annotated, relating to educational programs under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as
 3 to provide for submission of additional pathways to the State Board of Education for
 4 consideration; to provide for the annual development of a promoted list of industry
 5 credentials and state licenses that meet certain high-demand and high-wage criteria; to
 6 provide for distribution of the annual promoted list; to provide for annual reporting; to amend
 7 Code Section 20-2-2114 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to qualifications
 8 for the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program, so as to revise the prior school year
 9 requirement; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 Part 3 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
 13 relating to educational programs under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended by
 14 revising Code Section 20-2-159.1, relating to focused programs of study, as follows:

15 "20-2-159.1.

16 (a) The ~~No later than July 1, 2013, the~~ Department of Education shall develop, and the
 17 State Board of Education shall approve, state models and content standards for ~~the~~
 18 ~~following~~ focused programs of study, as defined in Code Section 20-2-326, including, but
 19 not limited to:

- 20 (1) Agriculture, food, and natural resources;
 21 (2) Architecture and construction;
 22 (3) Arts, audio-video technology, and communications;
 23 (4) Business, management, and administration;
 24 (5) Education and training;
 25 (6) Finance;
 26 (7) Health science;

- 27 (8) Hospitality and tourism;
 28 (9) Human services;
 29 (10) Information technology;
 30 (11) Law, public safety, and security;
 31 (12) Manufacturing;
 32 (13) Government and public administration;
 33 (14) Marketing, sales, and service;
 34 (15) Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and
 35 (16) Transportation, distribution, and logistics.

36 Such focused programs of study may be combined around these and other related clusters.

37 (b) Local school systems, charter schools, and college and career academies shall be
 38 authorized to develop and submit additional pathways, including recommended content
 39 standards, for consideration by the State Board of Education. The Department of
 40 Education shall review and recommend approval or denial of any new pathway to the State
 41 Board of Education within 90 days of submission of such pathway for consideration.

42 (c)(1) The State Workforce Development Board, in consultation with the Department of
 43 Education and the Technical College System of Georgia, shall annually develop a
 44 promoted list of industry credentials and state licenses that:

- 45 (A) Are linked to an occupation that is in high demand by employers at the local, state,
 46 or regional level; and
 47 (B) Lead to an occupation with wages of at least 70 percent of the average annual wage
 48 in this state unless the credential is a stackable credential and is required for the next
 49 level of occupation, which does meet the wage criterion.

50 (2) The Department of Education shall annually distribute the promoted list to all middle
 51 and high schools in this state. Such distribution may be by electronic means. The annual
 52 promoted list shall also be posted on the Department of Education's website.

53 (3) Each local school system shall annually report the number of students earning an
 54 industry credential or state license by type that is on the annual promoted list to the
 55 Department of Education. The Department of Education shall annually report the number
 56 of students earning an industry credential or state license by type that is on the annual
 57 promoted list to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House
 58 of Representatives. The report shall also be posted on the Department of Education's
 59 website."

60 **SECTION 2.**

61 Code Section 20-2-2114 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to qualifications
 62 for the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program, is amended by revising paragraph (3)
 63 of subsection (a) as follows:

64 "(3) The student:

65 (A) Has spent the prior school year in attendance at a Georgia public school; provided,
 66 however, that this requirement shall not apply if:

67 (i) The ~~the~~ student's parent is an active duty military service member stationed in
 68 Georgia within the previous year; or

69 (ii) The student previously qualified for a scholarship pursuant to this paragraph; and

70 (B) Has an Individualized Education Program written in accordance with federal and
 71 state laws and regulations; provided, however, that the State Board of Education shall
 72 be authorized to require a local board of education to expedite the development of an
 73 Individualized Education Program and to waive the prior school year requirement
 74 contained in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, in its sole discretion, on a case-by-case
 75 basis for specific medical needs of the student upon the request of a parent or guardian
 76 in accordance with state board procedures. If an expedited Individualized Education
 77 Program is required by the state board pursuant to this subparagraph, the state board
 78 may additionally require such expedited process to be completed prior to the beginning
 79 of the school year. The State Board of Education shall provide an annual report by
 80 December 31 of each year through December 31, 2015, regarding the number of
 81 waivers approved pursuant to this paragraph to the General Assembly;"

82 **SECTION 3.**

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