

Senate Bill 447

By: Senators Martin of the 9th, Stone of the 23rd, Mullis of the 53rd, Dugan of the 30th, Miller of the 49th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-2-161.2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 work based learning programs, legislative intent, participation, standards, coordination, and
3 funding, so as to provide for definitions regarding work based learning and related positions
4 and programs; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
5 purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 20-2-161.2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to work based
9 leaning programs, legislative intent, participation, standards, coordination, and funding, is
10 amended by revising subsection (a) as follows:

11 "(a)(1) The General Assembly finds that it would be beneficial to students, employers,
12 and the economic health of the state to assist in providing highly trained, technologically
13 sophisticated, and career oriented students which will aid in the development of a
14 successful twenty-first century work force. By opening their doors to work based
15 learning opportunities, employers can play an active role in shaping the quality of their
16 future work force, by preparing potential leaders for their company and their community,
17 and by helping shape future curriculum to create an educated work force for their industry
18 as a whole. Work based learning programs can provide students the opportunity to work
19 and learn in a real-world environment and prepare them for future career opportunities.
20 Such work based learning opportunities can be accomplished by developing partnerships
21 between and among the business community, industry, students, parents, school systems,
22 and postsecondary education institutions.

23 (2) As used in this Code section, the term:

24 (A) 'Cooperative education' or 'co-op' means a structured program that provides
25 rigorous and relevant classroom curriculum with related paid work site experiences.
26 Students in a co-op program are guided by a formal written training plan that defines

27 specific classroom and workplace skills to be mastered in the program. Students must
28 be enrolled in a concurrent course that corresponds directly to the job placement.

29 (B) 'Employability skill development' means a program in which a student is employed
30 for no more than one school year in a job that is not directly correlated to a career
31 pathway or course of study. The job shall be intended to improve the student's
32 understanding of general workplace environment, to increase understanding of potential
33 careers available to the student, or to add to an overall portfolio of the student's work
34 experience. Employability skill development programs are intended as a precursor to
35 future student placement in employment in the student's chosen career pathway or
36 course of study.

37 (C) 'Internship' means a temporary position that offers development of key skills and
38 knowledge for a specific task or set of tasks. An adult present at the work site shall be
39 responsible for the overall development of the student's skills while on the job and for
40 the training of the student in the specific job role. The student is not entitled to a
41 continuation of the internship after completing its original term.

42 (D) 'Mentorship' means a temporary, short-term, unpaid position or program in which
43 a student is paired with an employee for observation and understanding of a particular
44 industry field or industry project or for application of the student's classroom
45 curriculum in a workplace project or environment.

46 (E) 'School based enterprise' means a school sponsored, student-led business conducted
47 onsite at the student's school and advised or administered by the local school.

48 (F) 'Service-learning experience' means a position or program in which a student
49 volunteers, without payment, with a nonprofit entity that is registered with the Secretary
50 of State.

51 (G) 'Work based learning' means a credit-earning course or program in a secondary or
52 postsecondary curriculum which is developed in partnership with a company or set of
53 companies and a local school and is designed around a specific industry role or project.
54 Work based learning is an intentional and progressive sequence of authentic, employer
55 driven experiences that allows each student to develop and demonstrate the academic,
56 technical, and employability skills supportive of his or her career goals and interests in
57 actual or simulated workplace settings.

58 (H) 'Youth apprentice' means a student participating in Georgia's Youth Apprenticeship
59 Program established or approved by the department in conjunction with the Department
60 of Labor and the Technical College System of Georgia. A Youth Apprenticeship
61 Program is a category of work based learning that integrates school based learning and
62 a training plan coordinated with business, industry, and labor that facilitates the
63 transition from secondary to postsecondary education by providing the apprentice the

64 opportunity to earn a high school diploma, a postsecondary credential or diploma, or
65 a completer certificate. The program results in the awarding of a portable, industry
66 recognized skill certificate for participating students. Students participating in a Youth
67 Apprenticeship Program integrate classroom curriculum with work based learning in
68 the apprenticeship."

69 **SECTION 2.**

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