

Senate Bill 557

By: Senators Thompson of the 14th, Summers of the 13th, Hickman of the 4th, Dugan of the 30th, Gooch of the 51st and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to general provisions for public assistance, so as to increase self-sufficiency through
3 a state-wide work requirement for able-bodied, covered individuals under the federal
4 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; to prohibit the use of waivers and
5 no-good-cause exemptions for the work requirement; to provide for mandatory participation
6 for covered individuals in existing employment and training programs; to provide for
7 applicability; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal
8 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 Article 1 of Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
12 general provisions for public assistance, is amended by adding a new Code section to read
13 as follows:

14 "49-4-23.

15 (a) Unless expressly required by federal law, the department shall obtain specific
16 authorization from the General Assembly, either by Act or the adoption of a joint

17 resolution, before seeking, applying for, accepting, or renewing any waiver of work
18 requirements established for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program under
19 7 U.S.C. Section 2015(o), as such existed on January 1, 2023.

20 (b) The department shall not exercise this state's option to provide exemptions from the
21 work requirements for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, as provided
22 for under 7 U.S.C. Section 2015(o)(6)(E), as such existed on January 1, 2023.

23 (c) The department shall assign all individuals subject to the requirements of 7 U.S.C.
24 Section 2015(d)(1), as such existed on January 1, 2023, regarding the requirements that
25 covered individuals work 20 hours or more per week, participate in a work program for 20
26 hours or more per week, or participate in a workfare program, to an employment and
27 training program, as defined in 7 U.S.C. Section 2015(d)(4), as such existed on January 1,
28 2023."

29 **SECTION 2.**

30 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2023.

31 **SECTION 3.**

32 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.