

House Bill 982

By: Representatives Gambill of the 15<sup>th</sup>, Dubnik of the 29<sup>th</sup>, Erwin of the 32<sup>nd</sup>, Martin of the 49<sup>th</sup>, Hong of the 103<sup>rd</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 14 of Title 34 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
2 State Workforce Development Board, so as to require the State Workforce Development  
3 Board to develop, approve, and annually publish a High-demand Career List identifying  
4 those careers most critical to the state's current and future workforce needs; to require the  
5 State Workforce Development Board to work in consultation with the Office of Workforce  
6 Development; to require all state agencies and political subdivisions to utilize the  
7 High-demand Career List to ensure effective use of certain federal and state education  
8 funding; to amend Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education,  
9 so as to provide for conforming changes; to require the Office of Student Achievement to  
10 work in consultation with the State Workforce Development Board to audit and report on the  
11 effectiveness of employment, wage attainment, and retention of students in programs that  
12 align with the High-demand Career List; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting  
13 laws; and for other purposes.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

H. B. 982

**PART I**  
**SECTION 1-1.**

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17 Chapter 14 of Title 34 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the State  
18 Workforce Development Board, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as  
19 follows:

20 "34-14-3.

21 (a) The State Workforce Development Board shall develop and approve a High-demand  
22 Career List that shall identify those careers most critical to the state's current and future  
23 workforce needs. The State Workforce Development Board, in consultation with the  
24 Office of Workforce Development, shall assess current labor market information and other  
25 employment data sources and determine which careers merit inclusion on such list,  
26 regionally or state wide, and shall implement a data-driven process to assess present and  
27 future growing and declining industries, occupations, skills, and credentials. The  
28 High-demand Career List shall:

29 (1) Include the skills, certificates, licenses, diplomas, degrees, or other credentials of  
30 value required by employers for the high-demand careers included on the list; and

31 (2) Be published annually on or before December 31 on the State Workforce  
32 Development Board's public website.

33 (b) All state agencies and political subdivisions of the state, including local school  
34 systems, shall utilize the High-demand Career List to inform their use of federal and state  
35 funding for secondary, postsecondary, and adult education programs that lead to  
36 certificates, licenses, diplomas, degrees, or other credentials of value in careers on the list  
37 to ensure alignment with such list and effective use of funding by such entities."

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**PART II**

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**SECTION 2-1.**

40 Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, is amended in  
41 Article 7 of Chapter 4, relating to High-demand Career Initiatives Program, by revising  
42 paragraph (6) of Code Section 20-4-150, relating to definitions, as follows:

43 "(6) 'Eligible apprenticeable occupation' means an apprenticeable occupation identified  
44 by the ~~Office of Workforce Development~~ State Workforce Development Board pursuant  
45 to Code Section ~~20-4-152~~ 34-14-3 as a high-demand job career."

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**SECTION 2-2.**

47 Said article is further amended by revising Code Section 20-4-152, relating to annual  
48 publication of high-demand jobs, as follows:

49 "20-4-152.

50 (a) ~~The board, in coordination with and the Office of Workforce Development, shall create~~  
51 ~~annually and publish on its website a list of high-demand jobs state wide for purposes of~~  
52 ~~the High-demand Career Initiatives Program shall utilize the High-demand Career List~~  
53 ~~provided for in Code Section 34-14-3 for purposes of the High-demand Career Initiatives~~  
54 Program.

55 (b) ~~The Office of Workforce Development shall publish and maintain criteria for the~~  
56 ~~selection of high-demand jobs eligible for the High-demand Career Initiatives Program."~~

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**SECTION 2-3.**

58 Said article is further amended by revising paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Code Section  
59 20-4-153, relating to annual reporting and cooperation from apprenticeship sponsor, as  
60 follows:

