

Senate Bill 49

By: Senators Albers of the 56th, Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd, Carter of the 42nd, Seabaugh of the 28th, Stone of the 23rd and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, so as to  
2 raise the age of mandatory education; to revise provisions relating to adult literacy for  
3 purposes of conformity; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for  
4 other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, is amended in  
8 Code Section 20-2-690.1, relating to mandatory education for children, by revising  
9 subsection (a) as follows:

10 "(a) Mandatory attendance in a public school, private school, or home school program shall  
11 be required for children between ~~their sixth and sixteenth birthdays~~ and including the ages  
12 of six years and 16 1/2 years. Such mandatory attendance shall not be required where the  
13 child has successfully completed all requirements for a high school diploma."

14 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

15 Said title is further amended in Code Section 20-4-15, relating to the establishment of adult  
16 literacy programs, by revising subsection (d) as follows:

17 "(d) Individuals shall be eligible for adult literacy services who comply with other  
18 eligibility and attendance requirements as adopted by the state board and who:

19 (1) Are high school graduates or have high school equivalency certificates and who are  
20 deficient in one or more areas of competency offered by adult literacy programs;  
21 provided, however, that no person shall be eligible for a high school equivalency  
22 certificate who has a high school diploma; or

23 (2) Are at least 16 1/2 years of age and are not high school graduates but who are capable  
24 of attaining basic literacy skills as determined by policies established by the state board;  
25 provided, however, that an individual who is ~~between 16 or 17 years~~ and 16 1/2 years of

26 age who has not graduated from high school shall present documented evidence that his  
27 or her school system has been notified that he or she has withdrawn from school."

28 **SECTION 3.**

29 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 20-4-18, relating to management and  
30 control of adult literacy and postsecondary technical education programs and schools, as  
31 follows:

32 "20-4-18.

33 Subject to the provisions of Code Section 20-4-20, any other Code section of this article  
34 to the contrary notwithstanding, all decisions regarding the delivery of adult literacy and  
35 postsecondary technical education programs and services to business, industry, and  
36 individuals who are 16 1/2 years of age or older and who have completed or left the public  
37 schools, to include the awarding of high school equivalency certificates, shall be made by  
38 the Technical College System of Georgia. Commensurate with this authority, the system  
39 shall exercise state level management and operational control over adult literacy education  
40 programs, postsecondary technical schools, and adult vocational centers."

41 **SECTION 4.**

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