

Senate Bill 153

By: Senators Dolezal of the 27th and Tillery of the 19th

AS PASSED SENATE

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 provide for GOAL academies; to provide for definitions; to provide for the establishment of
3 GOAL academies as state chartered special schools; to provide for the transition of
4 system-collaborative state charter schools to GOAL academies; to provide for funding and
5 for the calculation thereof; to provide for designation; to provide for data collection; to
6 provide for eligibility criteria, requirements, and procedures; to provide for a short title; to
7 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Graduation Opportunities and Advanced
11 Learning (GOAL) Act."

12 **SECTION 2.**

13 Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, is amended in
14 Article 2 of Chapter 4, relating to technical and adult education, by adding a new Code
15 section to read as follows:

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16 "20-4-37.1.

17 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

18 (1) 'Charter petitioner' means one or more private individuals, private organizations, state
19 or local public entities, or adult learning providers, or any group of these working in
20 cooperation, that submits or initiates a petition to establish a GOAL academy as a state
21 chartered special school pursuant to Article 31 of Chapter 2 of this title.

22 (2) 'GOAL academy' means a state chartered special school, as defined in Code Section
23 20-2-2062, authorized directly by the State Board of Education with a specialized focus
24 on dropout recovery or high school credit recovery. Notwithstanding any provision of
25 this Code section to the contrary, GOAL academies shall be ineligible for the alternative
26 calculation of funding available to state charter schools pursuant to Code Section
27 20-2-2089.

28 (3) 'System-collaborative state charter school' means a charter school authorized by the
29 State Charter Schools Commission and governed by a board of directors which shall
30 include personnel of the local board or boards of education from the geographic region
31 which the charter school serves. Notwithstanding any provision of this Code section to
32 the contrary, such schools shall be ineligible for the alternative calculation of funding
33 available to state charter schools pursuant to Code Section 20-2-2089.

34 (b) Each GOAL academy may operate with consultation and support of the local school
35 system or systems from the geographic region which the GOAL academy serves; provided,
36 however, that each such GOAL academy shall be governed by an independent board of
37 directors. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude local school systems from providing
38 input to a GOAL academy on an advisory basis or local school system officials from
39 serving on the board of directors of GOAL academies.

40 (c) The Department of Education may make recommendations to the State Board of
41 Education for the approval, denial, and renewal of GOAL academy charter petitions and
42 specify the reasons for such recommendations. The State Board of Education shall

43 consider such recommendations prior to approving or denying a charter petition for a
44 GOAL academy.

45 (d)(1) The State Board of Education and the Department of Education shall establish a
46 process to designate GOAL academies. The State Board of Education shall collaborate
47 with the Department of Education and GOAL academies to develop and adopt a strategic
48 growth plan for increasing student access to GOAL academies, promoting student
49 success, and program sustainability. Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, the State
50 Board of Education may only approve new GOAL academies or expansion of existing
51 GOAL academies in accordance with such strategic growth plan.

52 (2) Any designation process established pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection shall
53 require the charter petitioner to demonstrate how the proposed GOAL academy will
54 increase graduation opportunities for traditional high school students, decrease dropout
55 rates in local school systems, and provide high school credit recovery opportunities.

56 (3) System-collaborative state charter schools shall become GOAL academies. The State
57 Board of Education, in consultation with the State Charter Schools Commission, shall
58 provide for the transfer and designation of existing system-collaborative state charter
59 schools to GOAL academies not later than July 1, 2021.

60 (e) The Department of Education shall be responsible for collecting and analyzing
61 appropriate data from and about GOAL academies on matters consisting of, but not limited
62 to, GOAL academy effectiveness.

63 (f) The State Board of Education shall be authorized to approve an attendance zone for a
64 GOAL academy that includes one or more local school systems, or any portion thereof, or
65 a state-wide attendance zone."

SECTION 3.

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67 Said title is further amended in Article 31 of Chapter 2, relating to the Charter Schools Act
68 of 1988, by adding a new subsection to Code Section 20-2-2068.1, relating to charter school
69 funding, to read as follows:

70 "(j)(1) GOAL Academies will receive supplemental funding in addition to the QBE
71 formula earnings as provided for in Code Section 20-2-161. The Department of
72 Education, the Office of Planning and Budget, the Senate Budget and Evaluation Office,
73 and the House Budget and Research Office shall work in collaboration to submit, no later
74 than November 1, 2021, a report and recommendation on an appropriate formula for the
75 calculation of such supplemental funding to the chairpersons of the Senate
76 Appropriations Committee and the House Committee on Appropriations.

77 (2) The earnings for a student in a GOAL academy shall be equal to the earnings for any
78 other student with similar student characteristics in a GOAL academy, regardless of the
79 local school system in which the student resides or the school system in which the GOAL
80 academy is located, and the Department of Education shall pay to each GOAL academy
81 through appropriation of state funds an amount equal to the sum of:

82 (A) An amount equal to 90 percent of the state-wide average amount of the total
83 revenues less federal revenues less state revenues other than equalization grants per
84 full-time equivalent for all school systems; provided, however, that, if the average
85 amount of the total revenues less federal revenues less state revenues other than
86 equalization grants per full-time equivalent for the local school systems that comprise
87 the attendance zone of the GOAL academy is less than the state-wide average amount
88 of the total revenues less federal revenues less state revenues other than equalization
89 grants per full-time equivalent for all school systems, then the greater of:

90 (i) The average amount of the total revenues less federal revenues less state revenues
91 other than equalization grants per full-time equivalent for the local school systems
92 that comprise the attendance zone of the GOAL academy; or

93 (ii) The average amount of the total revenues less federal revenues less state revenues
94 other than equalization grants per full-time equivalent for the lowest five school
95 systems ranked by assessed valuation per weighted full-time equivalent count, as
96 determined by the Department of Education; and
97 (B) An amount equal to 25 percent of the state-wide average total capital revenue per
98 full-time equivalent to provide computer hardware, software, associated technical
99 equipment, and ongoing maintenance required and necessary for its students to
100 participate in GOAL Academy programs.
101 (3) For the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 school years, GOAL academies shall
102 not be subject to the full-time equivalent program count restriction provided for in
103 subsection (h) of Code Section 20-2-154.1.
104 (4) No deduction shall be made to any state funding which a local school system is
105 otherwise authorized to receive pursuant to this chapter as a direct result or consequence
106 of the enrollment in a GOAL academy of a specific student or students who reside in the
107 geographical area of the local school system.
108 (5) Funding for GOAL academies pursuant to this subsection shall be subject to
109 appropriations by the General Assembly and such schools shall be treated consistently
110 with all other public schools in this state, pursuant to the respective statutory funding
111 formulas and grants."

112

SECTION 4.

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