Senate Bill 399

By: Senators Echols of the 49th, Albers of the 56th, Walker III of the 20th, Esteves of the 6th, Hickman of the 4th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To amend Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to vocational, technical, and adult education, so as to encourage and state expectations for the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, units of the University System of Georgia, and local boards of education to enter into and amend existing agreements with the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia and units of the Technical College System of Georgia for awarding postsecondary course credits that are transferrable between the university system and the technical college system and between units thereof; to provide for reports; to provide for certification of certain technical college system courses as approved prerequisites for certain baccalaureate degree programs of the university system; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to vocational, technical, and adult education, is amended by revising paragraph (3) of Code Section 20-4-11, relating to powers of board, as follows:

"(3) Select and employ a commissioner of the Technical College System of Georgia and fix his compensation, duties, and responsibilities consistent with the provisions of this article. The commissioner shall:

(A) Exercise the overall supervision and direction of the Technical College System of Georgia and shall serve at the pleasure of the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia. The State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia may assign and delegate to the commissioner such responsibilities, powers, and duties as the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia may deem proper and appropriate, including the authority to execute on behalf of the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia legal documents and other filings; ~~and~~

(B) Be responsible for implementing the policies of the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia and for the day-to-day operations of the Technical College System of Georgia. The commissioner shall develop job descriptions for the necessary administrative, programmatic, liaison, and clerical personnel and shall, at his discretion, hire staff necessary for the operation of the Technical College System of Georgia; and

(C)(i) In collaboration with the chancellor of the University System of Georgia, provide a report of at least the following:

(I) A list of the courses that have been approved by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia to be transferable between units of the university system and the technical college system;

(II) Of the courses listed as provided for in subdivision (I) of this division, identify the university system baccalaureate degree program or programs for which each such course has been approved by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia to be a degree prerequisite; and

(III) A summary of the efforts undertaken on behalf of the technical college system in collaboration with the university system to comply with the requirements of subsection (b) of Code Section 20-4-20.

(ii) The report required pursuant to division (i) of this subparagraph shall be submitted in writing by December 1 of each odd-numbered year by the commissioner to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives."

SECTION 2.

Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (c) of Code Section 20-4-14, relating to Technical College System of Georgia established, powers and duties, as follows:

"(c) The Technical College System of Georgia shall be empowered to:

(1)(A) Approve ~~occupational~~ programs below the baccalaureate level; provided, however, that any courses to be transferable to units of the University System of Georgia shall be approved by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of Code Section 20-4-20.

(B) Certify prior to the start of each semester all courses that have been approved by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia to be transferable to units of the university system.

(C) Of the courses certified as provided for in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, identify the university system baccalaureate degree program or programs for which each such course has been approved by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia to be a degree prerequisite;

(2) Receive and hold title to property, equipment, money, and materials;

(3) Operate instructional services projects, also known as student live work projects, in those occupational areas which require specific skills or competency mastery that can best be obtained or demonstrated in a laboratory environment with clients, real items, or

projects, including, but not limited to, carpentry, child care, aviation, welding, and automotive repair, and, in connection with such projects:

(A) Receive, retain, and utilize donations, fees, and moneys generated as a result of the sale of such services or projects;

(B) Retain any unexpended student live work funds from year to year;

(C) Expend retained student live work funds for any student live work project or for the benefit of instructional programs at the technical institute; and

(D) Acquire, improve, and sell real or personal property in connection with student live work projects, provided that all acquisitions and sales of real property in connection with student live work projects shall be approved by the state board;

(4) Solicit and receive funds from the general public, corporate underwriters, and foundations;

(5) Contract with other state, federal, or local public or private schools and other entities, individuals, or other legal entities for the provision of programmatic or administrative services or activities the system deems necessary; and

(6) Administer and supervise programs in accordance with standards, rules, regulations, and policies of the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia.″

SECTION 3.

Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 20-4-20, relating to authority of Board of Regents of University System of Georgia unabridged, as follows:

″20-4-20.

(a) Nothing in this article shall abridge the authority of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia to establish or operate colleges or of local boards of education to operate schools.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of subsection (a) of this Code section to the contrary:

(1) The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and local boards of education are encouraged and expected:

(A) To work continuously with the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia to develop and implement policies, programs, and practices that promote and advance the objectives of serving student needs, avoiding duplication of mission, using state resources efficiently, and expanding opportunities for postsecondary attainment in Georgia; and

(B) Consistent with the objectives stated in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, to enter into and amend existing agreements with the Technical College System of Georgia for awarding postsecondary course credits that are transferrable between units of the university system and the technical college system;

(2) The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia are encouraged and expected to promote and allow units of the university system and the technical college system to enter into and amend existing agreements:

(A) For awarding postsecondary course credits that are transferrable between such units of the university system and the technical college system; and

(B) That are consistent with the objectives stated in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of this subsection."

SECTION 4.

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