

Senate Bill 497

By: Senators Hickman of the 4th, Albers of the 56th, Beach of the 21st, Esteves of the 6th and Halpern of the 39th

AS PASSED SENATE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 vocational, technical, and adult education, so as to redesignate the High-demand Career
3 Initiatives Program as the High Demand Apprenticeship Program; to reduce contract award
4 amounts from \$10,000.00 to \$5,000.00 per apprentice; to increase the cap on allowable
5 apprentices from five to ten; to authorize certain expenditures by the Office of Workforce
6 Development; to provide for the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia to
7 establish the Public Service Apprenticeship Program to promote the creation and expansion
8 of registered apprenticeship programs in this state; to provide the purpose of such program;
9 to authorize the board to enter into contracts with public service sponsors for the successful
10 completion of the education, training, and other requirements of apprentices in Georgia; to
11 provide application requirements and procedures; to authorize contract completion awards;
12 to require a report; to authorize the acceptance of grants and other funds; to provide for
13 definitions; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for a repealer; to amend Code
14 Section 20-2-161.4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to accessing HOPE
15 scholarship funds for dual enrolled students and termination, so as to make a conforming
16 change; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

S. B. 497

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PART I

SECTION 1-1.

Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to vocational, technical, and adult education, is amended by revising Code Section 20-4-151, relating to purpose of High-demand Career Initiatives Program, employer partnerships, required information, contracts, awards, and limitations, as follows:

"20-4-151.

(a) Subject to appropriations of funds by the General Assembly for this purpose, the board, in coordination with the Department of Labor, the Department of Economic Development, the Department of Education, and the Office of Planning and Budget, shall establish and administer a program through the Office of Workforce Development to be called the ~~High-demand Career Initiatives~~ High Demand Apprenticeship Program. The purpose of the ~~program~~ High Demand Apprenticeship Program is to incentivize apprenticeship sponsors to establish new or grow existing registered apprenticeship programs in Georgia in order to support the growth of apprenticeship programs and expand high-quality ~~work-based~~ work based learning experiences in high-demand fields and careers for persons in Georgia.

(b) An employer sponsor may apply to the board for the opportunity to enter into a contract to perform the requirements of conducting an apprenticeship program for a specific apprentice. Such contract shall require the employer sponsor's apprentice to successfully complete an apprenticeship program.

(c) The board shall provide upon request and on the Technical College System of Georgia's public website information about the ~~program~~ High Demand Apprenticeship Program, the application, application instructions, and the application period established each year for contracts for services available under ~~the~~ such program.

43 (d) Upon successful completion of the requirements of a contract under this article, the
44 board shall provide a contract completion award to the employer sponsor. The contract
45 completion award amount shall be determined based on the number of hours of education
46 and training required for the successful completion of the apprenticeship under such
47 apprenticeship program but shall not exceed:

48 (1) \$10,000.00 per apprentice for contracts entered into before July 1, 2024; and

49 (2) \$5,000.00 per apprentice for contracts entered into on or after July 1, 2024.

50 (e) Each employer sponsor shall only be eligible to enter into contracts under this article
51 for up to:

52 (1) Five ~~five~~ apprentices per year through the end of Fiscal Year 2024; and

53 (2) Ten apprentices per year beginning with the Fiscal Year 2025 and continuing each
54 fiscal year thereafter.

55 (f) An apprenticeship sponsor may assist with the application for and completion of an
56 apprenticeship contract authorized by this article.

57 (g) Beginning July 1, 2024, and continuing thereafter, the Office of Workforce
58 Development shall be authorized to:

59 (1) Provide initial funding for up to \$2,500.00 per apprentice of the amount provided for
60 in paragraph (2) of subsection (d) of this Code section; and

61 (2) Provide funding to award employer sponsors up to \$2,500.00 per apprentice 12
62 months after the start of his or her apprenticeship."

63 **SECTION 1-2.**

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

66 "20-4-152.

67 (a) The board, in coordination with the Office of Workforce Development, shall create
68 annually and publish on its public website a list of high-demand jobs state wide for
69 purposes of the ~~High-demand Career Initiatives~~ High Demand Apprenticeship Program.

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

73 **SECTION 1-3.**

74 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 20-4-153, relating
75 to annual reporting and cooperation from apprenticeship sponsor, as follows:

76 "(b) Each apprenticeship sponsor shall fully cooperate in providing statistical information
77 requested by the board or, at the board's discretion, be excluded from participating in the
78 ~~High-demand Career Initiatives~~ High Demand Apprenticeship Program."

79 **SECTION 1-4.**

80 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 20-4-154, relating to rules and
81 regulations, as follows:

82 "20-4-154.

83 The board shall adopt rules and regulations deemed necessary for the implementation and
84 administration of this article, which shall include, but shall not be limited to, rules and
85 regulations for:

86 (1) ~~Establishing~~ establishing a staff review and application approval process;

87 (2) ~~Application~~ application scoring criteria that shall include provisions that give priority
88 to apprenticeship programs that hire and train apprentices who are:

89 (A) Between 15 and 21 years of age; or

90 (B) Enrolled in an adult education program and engaged in obtaining a high school
 91 diploma;
 92 (3) The the minimum score necessary for approval of a contract;; and
 93 (4) The the terms of agreement between an employer sponsor and the board, and any
 94 other rules deemed necessary for the implementation and administration of this article."

95 **PART II**

96 **SECTION 2-1.**

97 Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to vocational,
 98 technical, and adult education, is amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

99 "ARTICLE 8

100 20-4-160.

101 As used in this article, the term:

102 (1) 'Apprentice' means a person who is at least 15 years of age, except where a higher
 103 minimum age is required by law, who is employed in an eligible apprenticeable
 104 occupation, and is registered in Georgia with the United States Department of Labor
 105 Office of Apprenticeship.

106 (2) 'Apprenticeable occupation' means an occupation approved for apprenticeship by the
 107 United States Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship.

108 (3) 'Apprenticeship program' means a program registered with the United States
 109 Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship that includes terms and conditions for the
 110 qualification, recruitment, selection, employment, and training of apprentices, including
 111 the requirement for a written apprenticeship agreement.

112 (4) 'Apprenticeship sponsor' means:

- 113 (A) Any entity operating an apprenticeship program; or
114 (B) Any entity in whose name an apprenticeship program is being operated that is
115 registered with or approved by the United States Department of Labor Office of
116 Apprenticeship.
- 117 (5) 'Board' means the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia.
118 (6) 'Eligible apprenticeable occupation' means an apprenticeable occupation identified
119 by the Office of Workforce Development pursuant to Code Section 20-4-152 as a
120 high-demand job.
- 121 (7) 'Office of Workforce Development' means the Technical College System of Georgia's
122 Office of Workforce Development.
- 123 (8) 'Public service sponsor' means a state or local government entity that coordinates
124 with or is an apprenticeship sponsor and employs and trains an apprentice.

125 20-4-161.

- 126 (a) Subject to appropriations of funds by the General Assembly for this purpose, the board,
127 in coordination with the Department of Labor, the Department of Economic Development,
128 the Department of Education, and the Office of Planning and Budget, shall establish and
129 administer a program through the Office of Workforce Development to be called the Public
130 Service Apprenticeship Program. The purpose of the Public Service Apprenticeship
131 Program is to incentivize apprenticeship sponsors to establish new or grow existing
132 registered apprenticeship programs in Georgia in order to support the growth of
133 apprenticeship programs and expand high-quality work based learning experiences in state
134 and local government fields and careers for persons in Georgia.
- 135 (b) A public service sponsor may apply to the board for the opportunity to enter into a
136 contract to perform the requirements of conducting an apprenticeship program for a
137 specific apprentice. Such contract shall require the public service sponsor's apprentice to
138 successfully complete an apprenticeship program.

139 (c) The board shall provide upon request and on the Technical College System of
140 Georgia's public website information about the Public Service Apprenticeship Program, the
141 application, application instructions, and the application period established each year for
142 contracts for services available under such program.

143 (d) Upon successful completion of the requirements of a contract under this article, the
144 board shall provide a contract completion award to the public service sponsor. The
145 contract completion award amount shall be determined based on the number of hours of
146 education and training required for the successful completion of the apprenticeship under
147 such apprenticeship program but shall not exceed \$5,000.00 per apprentice.

148 (e) Each public service sponsor shall only be eligible to enter into contracts under this
149 article for up to ten apprentices per year.

150 (f) An apprenticeship sponsor may assist with the application for and completion of an
151 apprenticeship contract authorized by this article.

152 20-4-162.

153 (a) The Office of Workforce Development shall annually report on its public website the
154 following information for the previous year:

155 (1) The total amount of compensation awarded under this article;

156 (2) The total number of contracts entered into and the number of contracts completed;

157 (3) The total number of apprentices who attended an institution of the Technical College
158 System of Georgia during the course of his or her apprenticeship program; and

159 (4) The total number of apprentices who did not attend an institution of the Technical
160 College System of Georgia during the course of his or her apprenticeship program.

161 (b) Each apprenticeship sponsor shall fully cooperate in providing statistical information
162 requested by the board or, at the board's discretion, be excluded from participating in the
163 Public Service Apprenticeship Program.

164 20-4-163.

165 The board shall adopt rules and regulations deemed necessary for the implementation and
166 administration of this article, which shall include, but shall not be limited to, rules and
167 regulations for:

168 (1) Establishing a staff review and application approval process;

169 (2) Application scoring criteria that shall prioritize apprenticeship programs that hire and
170 train apprentices:

171 (A) Who are enrolled in or have completed a high school career, technical, and
172 agricultural education (CTAE) public administration pathway program; or

173 (B) In state and local government skilled trade fields;

174 (3) The minimum score necessary for approval of a contract; and

175 (4) The terms of agreement between a public service sponsor and the board.

176 20-4-164.

177 To assist in carrying out this article, the State Board of the Technical College System of
178 Georgia is authorized to accept grants of money, materials, services, or property of any
179 kind from a federal agency, private agency, corporation, or individual.

180 20-4-165.

181 This article shall stand repealed on July 1, 2027."

182 **PART III**

183 **SECTION 3-1.**

184 Code Section 20-2-161.4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to accessing
185 HOPE scholarship funds for dual enrolled students and termination, is amended by revising
186 subparagraph (a)(2)(E) as follows:

