

Senate Bill 369

By: Senators Still of the 48th, Esteves of the 35th, Kemp of the 38th and Brass of the 6th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 31 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the
2 "Charter Schools Act of 1998," so as to provide for completion charter schools; to provide
3 for rules, regulations, policies, and procedures; to provide for the conversion of existing
4 charter schools to completion charter schools; to provide for measurable objective
5 performance standards; to provide for separate principles and standards for completion
6 charter schools; to provide for a definition; to provide for related matters; to provide for an
7 effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Article 31 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the "Charter
11 Schools Act of 1998," is amended in Code Section 20-2-2062, relating to definitions, by
12 adding a new paragraph to read as follows:

13 "(3.3)(A) 'Completion charter school' means a charter school that serves students in any
14 of grades six through 12 and provides:

15 (i) Special education services as provided for in Code Section 20-2-152;

- 16 (ii) Remedial education program services as provided for in Code Section 20-2-154;
 17 and
 18 (iii) Nontraditional education programs and services, including, but not limited to:
 19 (I) Dropout prevention and academic intervention programs;
 20 (II) Programs for high school credit recovery; and
 21 (III) Opportunities for students to schedule classes outside of the traditional school
 22 day, school week, and school year.
 23 (B) Such term shall not include a school that serves students in any of grades
 24 kindergarten through five."

25 SECTION 2.

26 Said article is further amended in Code Section 20-2-2063, relating to charter petitions, by
 27 adding a new subsection to read as follows:

- 28 "(e)(1) The State Board of Education shall establish rules, regulations, policies, and
 29 procedures to govern the contents of a charter petition for a completion charter school.
 30 (2) The State Board of Education shall establish rules, regulations, policies, and
 31 procedures to provide for charter petitions for a completion charter school. Such rules,
 32 regulations, policies, and procedures shall require that a charter petition and the charter
 33 contain an explanation of:
 34 (A) The special education services to be provided pursuant to Code Section 20-2-152,
 35 the remedial education program services to be provided pursuant to Code Section
 36 20-2-154, and other nontraditional education programs and services to be provided; and
 37 (B) The measurable objective performance standards in the areas of academic
 38 achievement, student growth, and student retention that will be established, monitored,
 39 evaluated, and reported.
 40 (3) The State Board of Education shall establish rules, regulations, policies, and
 41 procedures to provide for an existing charter school to convert its current charter to a

42 completion charter school charter, which shall be subject to the initial term restriction
 43 provided for in subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-2067.1."

44 **SECTION 3.**

45 Said article is further amended in Code Section 20-2-2063.3, relating to code of principles
 46 and standards for charter school authorizers, by revising subsection (a) as follows:

47 "(a)(1) The State Board of Education and the State Charter Schools Commission shall
 48 jointly establish a code of principles and standards of charter school authorizing to guide
 49 local boards of education, the state board, and the State Charter Schools Commission in
 50 meeting high-quality authorizing practices. The principles and standards established by
 51 the state board and the State Charter Schools Commission shall, as applicable, include:

52 ~~(1)~~(A) Maintaining high standards for approving charter petitions;

53 ~~(2)~~(B) Establishing high academic, financial, and operational performance standards
 54 for charter schools;

55 ~~(3)~~(C) Annually monitoring, evaluating, and reporting charter school progress in
 56 meeting academic, financial, and operational performance standards, including ensuring
 57 that a local school system has not been designated as a high-risk local school system
 58 by the Department of Audits and Accounts pursuant to Code Section 20-2-67, or if it
 59 has been designated as a high-risk local school system, that it has a written corrective
 60 action plan in place and that local school system board members and appropriate
 61 personnel participate in required training to address the deficiencies;

62 ~~(4)~~(D) Upholding charter school autonomy in school governance, instructional
 63 program implementation, personnel, and budgeting;

64 ~~(5)~~(E) Protecting students and holding charter schools accountable for their obligations
 65 to all students; and

66 ~~(6)~~(F) Protecting the public interest and holding charter schools accountable for their
 67 obligations of governance, management, and oversight of public funds.

68 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of paragraph (1) of this subsection to the contrary, the
69 principles and standards established by the state board and the State Charter Schools
70 Commission shall establish separate principles and standards for completion charter
71 schools, which may include the same or similar principles and standards provided for in
72 paragraph (1) of this subsection, but which shall include provisions for:
73 (A) Establishing measurable objective performance standards in the areas of academic
74 achievement, student growth, and student retention; and
75 (B) Monitoring, evaluating, and reporting progress in meeting such performance
76 standards."

77 **SECTION 4.**

78 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2025.

79 **SECTION 5.**

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