

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth offered the following substitute to SB 369:

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 dropout recovery charter schools; to  
3 provide for rules, regulations, policies, and procedures; to provide for the conversion of  
4 existing charter schools to dropout recovery charter schools; to provide for measurable  
5 objective performance standards; to provide for separate principles, standards, and reports  
6 for dropout recovery charter schools; to require the State Board of Education to adopt  
7 policies, rules, and regulations; to provide for a definition; to provide for related matters; to  
8 provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

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

14 "(4.01)(A) 'Dropout recovery charter school' means a charter school that enrolls  
15 students in any of grades six through 12 and provides:

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

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

26 **SECTION 2.**

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

29 "(e)(1) The State Board of Education shall establish rules, regulations, policies, and  
30 procedures to govern the contents of a charter petition for a dropout recovery charter  
31 school.

32 (2) The State Board of Education shall establish rules, regulations, policies, and  
33 procedures to provide for charter petitions for a dropout recovery charter school. Such  
34 rules, regulations, policies, and procedures shall require that a charter petition and the  
35 charter contain an explanation of:

36 (A) The special education services to be provided pursuant to Code Section 20-2-152,  
37 the remedial education program services to be provided pursuant to Code  
38 Section 20-2-154, and other nontraditional education programs and services to be  
39 provided; and

40 (B) The measurable objective performance standards in the areas of academic  
41 achievement, student growth, and student retention that will be established, monitored,  
42 evaluated, and reported.

43 (3) The State Board of Education shall establish policies, rules, and regulations to  
 44 provide for an existing charter school to convert its current charter to a dropout recovery  
 45 charter school charter, which shall be subject to the initial term restriction provided for  
 46 in subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-2067.1."

47 **SECTION 3.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

71 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of paragraph (1) of this subsection to the contrary, the  
72 principles and standards established by the state board and the State Charter Schools  
73 Commission shall establish separate principles and standards for dropout recovery charter  
74 schools, which may include the same or similar principles and standards provided for in  
75 paragraph (1) of this subsection, but which shall include provisions for:

76 (A) Establishing measurable objective performance standards in the areas of academic  
77 achievement, student growth, and student retention; and

78 (B) Monitoring, evaluating, and reporting progress in meeting such performance  
79 standards.

80 (3) In the annual report required by paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Code  
81 Section 20-14-27, the Office of Student Achievement shall separately report on the  
82 performance of dropout recovery charter schools and shall not include such school's  
83 individual school rating in the overall local school system rating."

84 **SECTION 4.**

85 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2026.

86 **SECTION 5.**

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