

Senate Bill 369

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

AS PASSED SENATE

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;

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- 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.