

The House Committee on Education offers the following substitute to HB 1302:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Titles 20, 34, and 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 education, labor and industrial relations, and state government, respectively, so as to provide
3 for the reconstitution of the Office of Student Achievement as the Office of Education and
4 Workforce Strategy; to provide for responsibilities of the Office of Education and Workforce
5 Strategy and the director of said office; to change the name of the High Demand
6 Apprenticeship Program to the Top State for Talent Pre-Apprenticeship and Apprenticeship
7 Program; to repeal provisions for the Alliance of Education Agency Heads; to repeal a sunset
8 date relative to accessing HOPE scholarship funds for dual enrollment students; to provide
9 for a combined Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Plan and Perkins State Plan; to
10 provide for registered apprenticeship programs; to designate the Technical College System
11 of Georgia as the state apprenticeship agency for the State of Georgia and provide for related
12 authority and responsibilities; to revise various reporting requirements; to revise various
13 certification requirements; to revise various requirements for rules and regulations; to
14 establish and provide for the Education Data Governance Board; to remove references to the
15 Office of Workforce Development; to provide for definitions; to provide for conforming
16 changes; to provide a short title; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and
17 for other purposes.

H. B. 1302 (SUB)

- 1 -

18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

19 **SECTION 1.**

20 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Education and Workforce Strategy Act."

21 **SECTION 2.**

22 Titles 20, 34, and 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, labor
23 and industrial relations, and state government, respectively, are amended by replacing
24 "Office of Student Achievement" and "Office of Student Achievement's" with "Office of
25 Education and Workforce Strategy" and "Office of Education and Workforce Strategy's",
26 respectively, wherever the former phrases occur in said titles, except for subsection (a) of
27 Code Section 20-14-25, relating to creation, director, authority, seal, and administrative
28 assignment relative to the Office of Student Achievement.

29 **SECTION 3.**

30 Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, is amended in
31 Article 4 of Chapter 1, relating to the Council on Literacy, by revising subsections (d) and
32 (e) of Code Section 20-1-42, relating to membership, terms, cooperation, and Literacy
33 Coach, as follows:

34 ~~"(d) The Governor shall direct the Alliance of Education Agency Heads provided for in~~
35 ~~Article 1 of Chapter 14 of this title to work with members of the council~~ Reserved.

36 (e) The council shall be attached for administrative purposes only to the Office of
37 Education and Workforce Strategy ~~Student Achievement~~. The Office of Education and
38 Workforce Strategy ~~Student Achievement~~ shall provide staff support for the council and
39 shall hire an individual to serve as Georgia Literacy Coach who shall be responsible for
40 coordination of such staff support ~~and for working in coordination with the literacy related~~
41 ~~efforts of the Alliance of Education Agency Heads~~. The Office of Education and

42 Workforce Strategy Student Achievement shall use any funds specifically appropriated to
 43 support the work of the council for such purpose."

44 **SECTION 4.**

45 Said title is further amended in Part 4 of Article 6 of Chapter 2, relating to financing under
 46 the "Quality Basic Education Act," by revising Code Section 20-2-161.4, relating to
 47 accessing HOPE scholarship funds for dual enrolled students and reports, as follows:

48 "20-2-161.4.

49 (a)(~~1~~) Beginning July 1, 2023, each student participating in the Dual Enrollment program
 50 provided for in Code Section 20-2-161.3 who is eligible for a HOPE grant pursuant to
 51 Code Section 20-3-519.5 shall be allowed to access HOPE grant funds for eligible CTAE
 52 courses, as defined in Code Section 20-2-161.3, irrespective of whether such student has
 53 reached any maximum credit hour cap provided for in Code Section 20-2-161.3.

54 (~~2~~)(b) ~~For three years beginning on July 1, 2023, the~~ The Georgia Student Finance
 55 Commission, in collaboration with the Technical College System of Georgia, shall collect
 56 and report data on:

57 (~~A~~)(1) Student enrollment in and completion of at least one eligible CTAE course, as
 58 defined in Code Section 20-2-161.3, as part of the Dual Enrollment program provided for
 59 in Code Section 20-2-161.3;

60 (~~B~~)(2) HOPE grant funding and Dual Enrollment program funding, including, but not
 61 limited to, the number of students who received such funding and the maximum, mean,
 62 median, and mode amounts of such funding received by students;

63 (~~C~~)(3) Postsecondary credits earned by students who received such funding;

64 (~~D~~)(4) The number of students who enrolled in a postsecondary degree program after
 65 completing a program of study that includes at least one eligible CTAE course, as defined
 66 in Code Section 20-2-161.3, as part of the Dual Enrollment program provided for in Code
 67 Section 20-2-161.3; and

68 ~~(E)(5)~~ The number of students employed in a high-demand field after completing a
 69 focused program of study identified by the State Board of the Technical College System
 70 of Georgia as part of the High Demand Top State for Talent Pre-Apprenticeship and
 71 Apprenticeship Program provided for in Code Section 20-4-152 Article 7 of Chapter 4
 72 of this title.

73 (c) No later than January 1 each year, the Georgia Student Finance Commission shall
 74 provide ~~an interim~~ the report required by subsection (b) of this Code section to the
 75 Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
 76 director of the Office of Planning and Budget, and the chairpersons of the House
 77 Committee on Education, the Senate Education and Youth Committee, the House
 78 Committee on Higher Education, and the Senate Higher Education Committee. ~~A final~~
 79 ~~report shall be provided to the same no later than December 1, 2028.~~

80 ~~(3)(d)~~ The Georgia Student Finance Commission, in consultation with the State Board of
 81 Education; and the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia, ~~and the Office~~
 82 ~~of Workforce Development~~, shall establish rules and regulations to implement the
 83 provisions of this ~~subsection~~ Code section.

84 ~~(b) This Code section shall stand repealed on June 30, 2028."~~

85 SECTION 5.

86 Said title is further amended in said part by revising Code Section 20-2-169, relating to
 87 receipt of federal funds for career, occupational, or technical education, as follows:

88 "20-2-169.

89 (a) The Department of Education is designated as the sole state agency to receive federal
 90 funds allotted to Georgia under acts of Congress appropriating federal funds for career,
 91 occupational, or technical education; provided, however, that those funds appropriated for
 92 the operation and management of postsecondary technical, adult, and industrial programs
 93 shall be placed under the jurisdiction and control of the State Board of the Technical

94 College System of Georgia; provided, further, that a proportionate share of those federal
95 funds appropriated for planning, evaluation, program improvement, and other
96 administrative and discretionary purposes shall be placed under the jurisdiction and control
97 of such board.

98 (b) The Department of Education and the Technical College System of Georgia, with
99 assistance from the Office of Education and Workforce Strategy, shall prepare a combined
100 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Plan and Perkins State Plan in accordance with
101 federal law.

102 (c) The combined Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Plan and Perkins State Plan
103 shall include:

104 (1) The incorporation of coordinated data from comprehensive local needs assessments
105 to align secondary, postsecondary, and adult workforce training programs with regional
106 labor market requirements and federal compliance standards for the Workforce
107 Innovation and Opportunity Act Plan and Perkins State Plan;

108 (2) The implementation of guidance from the United States Department of Labor and
109 United States Department of Education that recommends formal input from key
110 stakeholders, including, but not limited to:

111 (A) Local workforce development boards and secondary and postsecondary
112 educational institutions;

113 (B) Private sector employers and industry representatives; and

114 (C) Community based organizations and regional economic development entities; and

115 (3) The incorporation of additional coordinated efforts required by guidance from the
116 United States Department of Labor and United States Department of Education to ensure
117 the state remains eligible for federal funding, including the synchronization of
118 performance accountability measures and the streamlining of service delivery.

119 (d) The combined Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Plan and Perkins State Plan
120 required by this Code section and any amendments thereto shall be approved by the State

121 Workforce Development Board, submitted to the Governor, and distributed to the public
122 as required by federal law.

123 (e) Nothing in this Code section shall prohibit the Department of Education or the
124 Technical College System of Georgia from consulting its respective boards for the purpose
125 of preparing the combined Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Plan and Perkins
126 State Plan as provided for in subsection (c) of this Code section."

127 **SECTION 6.**

128 Said title is further amended in Part 11 of said article, relating to regional educational service
129 agencies, by revising subsections (a) and (b) of Code Section 20-2-271, relating to
130 development of regional improvement plan, introduction of core services, instructional care
131 teams, and establishment of alternative methods of teacher certification, as follows:

132 "(a) Each regional educational service agency shall annually develop and submit to the
133 Department of Education for approval, with a copy to the ~~Alliance of Education Agency~~
134 ~~Heads~~ Office of Education and Workforce Strategy, a regional plan for improvement of
135 educational efficiency and cost effectiveness of its member institutions. Each plan must
136 include the purposes and description of the services the regional educational service agency
137 will provide to schools identified as low-performing based on the indicators adopted under
138 Code Section 20-14-33 and to other schools.

139 (b) Each regional educational service agency shall introduce and provide core services for
140 member local school systems and schools and provide core services for purchase by local
141 school systems and schools which are not members of that regional educational service
142 agency. These core services shall include the following:

143 (1) Training and assistance in teaching each subject area assessed under Code
144 Section 20-2-281;

145 (2) Assistance specifically designed for any school that is rated academically failing
146 under Code Section 20-14-33;

147 (3) Training and assistance to teachers, administrators, members of local boards of
 148 education, and members of local school councils on school-based decision making and
 149 control; and

150 (4) Assistance in complying with applicable state laws and rules of the State Board of
 151 Education ~~and the Alliance of Education Agency Heads.~~

152 Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to limit the freedom of a school system or
 153 school to purchase or refuse to purchase any core service from any regional educational
 154 service agency in this state."

155 **SECTION 7.**

156 Said title is further amended in Part 15 of said article, relating to miscellaneous provisions
 157 under the "Quality Basic Education Act," by revising subsections (a), (b), and (c) of Code
 158 Section 20-2-320, relating to state-wide comprehensive educational information system and
 159 identification of data to implement Quality Basic Education Program, as follows:

160 "(a) There shall be a state-wide comprehensive educational information system which will
 161 provide for the accurate, seamless, and timely flow of information from local and regional
 162 education agencies, units of the University System of Georgia, and technical schools and
 163 colleges to the state. The system design shall include hardware, software, data, collection
 164 methods and times, training, maintenance, communications, security of data, and
 165 installation specifications and any other relevant specifications needed for the successful
 166 implementation of the system. The state-wide comprehensive educational information
 167 system shall not use a student's social security number or an employee's social security
 168 number in violation of state or federal law to identify a student or employee. Upon
 169 approval of the boards of the respective education agencies, such boards shall issue
 170 appropriate requests for proposals to implement a state-wide comprehensive educational
 171 information system, subject to appropriation by the General Assembly. The boards of the
 172 respective education agencies, ~~at the direction of the Alliance of Education Agency Heads,~~

173 shall initiate contracts with appropriate vendors and local units of administration for the
174 procurement of services, purchase of hardware and software, and for any other purposes
175 upon the recommendation of the Office of Education and Workforce Strategy ~~purpose as~~
176 ~~directed by the Alliance of Education Agency Heads~~, consistent with appropriation by the
177 General Assembly.

178 (b) The State Board of Education, the State Board of the Technical College System of
179 Georgia, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, and the Department
180 of Early Care and Learning shall require an individual student record for each student
181 enrolled which at a minimum includes the data specifications ~~approved~~ recommended by
182 the ~~Office of Education and Workforce Strategy Alliance of Education Agency Heads~~. The
183 Professional Standards Commission shall maintain an individual data record for each
184 certificated person employed in a public school.

185 (c) For the purpose of this article, authorized educational agencies shall be the Department
186 of Education; the Department of Early Care and Learning; the Board of Regents of the
187 University System of Georgia; the Technical College System of Georgia; ~~the Alliance of~~
188 ~~Education Agency Heads~~; the Professional Standards Commission; the Office of Education
189 and Workforce Strategy Student Achievement; the education policy and research
190 components of the office of the Governor; the Office of Planning and Budget; the Senate
191 Budget and Evaluation Office; and the House Budget and Research Office. Any
192 information collected over the state-wide comprehensive educational information system,
193 including individual student records and individual personnel records, shall be accessible
194 by authorized educational agencies, provided that any information which is planned for
195 collection over the system but which is temporarily being collected by other means shall
196 also be accessible by authorized educational agencies and provided, further, that adequate
197 security provisions are employed to protect the privacy of individuals. All data maintained
198 for this system shall be used for educational purposes only. In no case shall information
199 be released by an authorized educational agency which would violate the privacy rights of

200 any individual student or employee. Information released by an authorized educational
201 agency in violation of the privacy rights of any individual student or employee shall subject
202 the authorized educational agency to all penalties under applicable state and federal law.
203 Any information collected over the state-wide comprehensive educational information
204 system which is not stored in an individual student or personnel record format shall be
205 made available to the Governor and the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, the
206 House Committee on Education, the Senate Education and Youth Committee, the House
207 Committee on Higher Education, and the Senate Higher Education Committee, except
208 information otherwise prohibited by statute. Data which are included in an individual
209 student record or individual personnel record format shall be extracted from such records
210 and made available in nonindividual record format for use by the Governor, committees
211 of the General Assembly, and agencies other than authorized educational agencies."

212 **SECTION 8.**

213 Said title is further amended in Part 16 of said article, relating to college and career readiness
214 under the "Quality Basic Education Act," by revising paragraph (3) of subsection (c) of Code
215 Section 20-2-327, relating to recognition of advanced proficiency/honors courses and
216 counseling and development of individual college and career plans, as follows:

217 "(3) No later than December 31, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Georgia Student
218 Finance Commission and the Department of Education shall annually collect and report
219 on information to verify compliance with this Code section. The report shall include the
220 percentage of students in ninth grade who create a GAfutures.org account and students
221 in grades ten through 12 who utilize a GAfutures.org account and be distributed to the
222 Office of Planning and Budget and the Office of Education and Workforce Strategy. The
223 report shall be included in the state-wide education and workforce plan provided for in
224 Code Section 20-14-29.2."

225 **SECTION 9.**

226 Said title is further amended in said part by revising subsection (b) of Code Section
227 20-2-327.1, relating to industry credentialing for career, technical, and agricultural education
228 programs and reporting, as follows:

229 "(b) No later than December 31, 2018, and annually thereafter, the Department of
230 Education, in coordination with the Office of Education and Workforce Strategy, shall
231 produce a return-on-investment report to the State Workforce Development Board and the
232 Office of Planning and Budget as related to grant funds provided for in subsection (j) of
233 Code Section 20-2-260. Such report shall include the current and projected regional
234 business and industry needs for the purpose of establishing annual goals and strategies to
235 increase attainment rates of industry credentialing, including the development of additional
236 industry credentials to enhance current industry certified programs."

237 **SECTION 10.**

238 Said title is further amended in Article 2 of Chapter 4, relating to technical and adult
239 education, by adding a new subsection to Code Section 20-4-17, relating to agencies to
240 receive federal funds and transfer of personnel to Department of Technical and Adult
241 Education, now known as Technical College System of Georgia, to read as follows:

242 "(c)(1) The Department of Education and the Technical College System of Georgia, with
243 assistance from the Office of Education and Workforce Strategy, shall prepare a
244 combined Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Plan and Perkins State Plan in
245 accordance with federal law.

246 (2) The combined Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Plan and Perkins State
247 Plan shall include:

248 (A) The incorporation of coordinated data from comprehensive local needs
249 assessments to align secondary, postsecondary, and adult workforce training programs

250 with regional labor market requirements and federal compliance standards for the
251 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Plan and Perkins State Plan;
252 (B) The implementation of guidance from the United States Department of Labor and
253 United States Department of Education that recommends formal input from key
254 stakeholders, including, but not limited to:
255 (i) Local workforce development boards and secondary and postsecondary
256 educational institutions;
257 (ii) Private sector employers and industry representatives; and
258 (iii) Community based organizations and regional economic development entities;
259 and
260 (C) The incorporation of additional coordinated efforts required by guidance from the
261 United States Department of Labor and United States Department of Education to
262 ensure the state remains eligible for federal funding, including the synchronization of
263 performance accountability measures and the streamlining of service delivery.
264 (3) The combined Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Plan and Perkins State
265 Plan required by this subsection and any amendments thereto shall be approved by the
266 State Workforce Development Board, submitted to the Governor, and distributed to the
267 public as required by federal law.
268 (4) Nothing in this Code section shall prohibit the Department of Education or the
269 Technical College System of Georgia from consulting its respective boards for the
270 purpose of preparing the combined Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Plan and
271 Perkins State Plan as provided for in subsection (c) of this Code section."

272 **SECTION 11.**

273 Said title is further amended in said article by replacing "work force" with "workforce" each
274 time the term appears in and by revising subsections (a), (c), and (g) of Code

275 Section 20-4-37, relating to the Office of College and Career Transitions and powers and
276 duties, as follows:

277 "(a)(1) It is the intent of the General Assembly to:

278 (A) Increase high school graduation rates, potential job opportunities, and educational
279 opportunities that will prepare students for success in college and the workplace;

280 (B) Establish intergovernmental cooperation between postsecondary institutions and
281 local boards of education and collaboration with business, industry, and community
282 stakeholders to aid relevant education programs informed by the High-Demand Career
283 List as provided in Code Section 34-14-3 and in the development and support of new
284 and existing college and career academies in Georgia;

285 (C) Assist in the development of academic and career ready curriculum;

286 (D) Establish and manage support grant opportunities and awards for new and existing
287 college and career academies;

288 (E) Establish a process that allows for college and career academy certification; and

289 (F) Collect and analyze data to evaluate the effectiveness of dual credit and dual
290 enrollment programs, secondary and postsecondary partnerships, and college and career
291 academies academies.

292 (2) The General Assembly finds that to accomplish these goals an office should be
293 established to coordinate the efforts of the various education agencies."

294 "(c) The Office of College and Career Academies shall be established within the Technical
295 College System of Georgia to coordinate the efforts by the Office of Education and
296 Workforce Strategy, the State Board of Education, the University System of Georgia, the
297 Technical College System of Georgia, and other not for profit postsecondary institutions
298 accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in the professional
299 development, curriculum support, and development and establishment of college and career
300 academies."

301 "(g)(1) The office shall establish a certification process, in collaboration with the
302 Department of Education, for approval by the board. The office shall be authorized to
303 certify college and career academies. The State Board of Education shall accept
304 certification by the office as one component of determining compliance with charter and
305 strategic waivers school system or charter system contract requirements. The State Board
306 of Education may request supplemental information from charter petitioners, strategic
307 waivers school systems, or charter systems.

308 (2) Any certification process established pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection
309 shall require that the applicant demonstrates how the proposed or existing college and
310 career academy will increase student achievement and technical skill attainment, provide
311 for dual credit and dual enrollment opportunities, increase work based learning
312 opportunities, and address ~~work force~~ workforce development needs; articulates how the
313 collaboration between business, industry, and community stakeholders will advance ~~work~~
314 ~~force~~ workforce development; demonstrates local governance and autonomy; and shows
315 other benefits that meet the needs of the students and community. The applicant shall
316 also demonstrate, as applicable, how the proposed or existing college and career
317 academy's use of the Accelerated Career Diploma Program, the Top State For Talent
318 Pre-Apprenticeship and Apprenticeship Program, and the High-Demand Career List as
319 provided in Code Section 34-14-3, specific to its region, will increase workforce
320 readiness.

321 (3) Certification by the office shall constitute a positive recommendation to the State
322 Board of Education for renewal of a charter school or charter system pursuant to Code
323 Section 20-2-2064.1 or an extension of a strategic waivers school system contract
324 pursuant to Article 4 of Chapter 2 of this title. A copy of the certification report shall be
325 provided to the State Board of Education by the office in order to communicate the
326 certification status of the applicant."

327 **SECTION 12.**

328 Said title is further amended in Article 7 of said chapter, relating to the high demand
329 apprenticeship program, by revising Code Section 20-4-150, relating to definitions, as
330 follows:

331 "20-4-150.

332 As used in this article, the term:

333 (1) 'Apprentice' means an individual at least 15 years of age, except where a higher
334 minimum age standard is otherwise set by law, who is employed to learn an occupation
335 in a registered apprenticeship program. ~~a person who is at least 15 years of age, except~~
336 ~~where a higher minimum age is required by law, who is employed in an eligible~~
337 ~~apprenticeable occupation, and is registered in Georgia with the United States~~
338 ~~Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship.~~

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

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

345 (4)(3) 'Apprenticeship sponsor' means:

346 (A) Any entity operating an apprenticeship program; or

347 (B) Any entity in whose name an apprenticeship program is being operated that is
348 registered with or approved by the United States Department of Labor Office of
349 Apprenticeship.

350 (5)(4) 'Board' means the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia.

351 (6)(5) 'Eligible apprenticeable occupation' means an apprenticeable occupation identified
352 by the State Workforce Development Board pursuant to Code Section 34-14-3 as a
353 high-demand career.

354 ~~(7)~~(6) 'Employer sponsor' means an employer that coordinates with or is an
355 apprenticeship sponsor and employs and trains an apprentice.

356 ~~(8) 'Office of Workforce Development' means the Technical College System of Georgia's~~
357 ~~Office of Workforce Development.~~

358 (7) 'Pre-apprentice' means an individual at least 15 years of age, except where a higher
359 minimum age standard is otherwise set by law, who is employed to learn an occupation
360 in a registered pre-apprenticeship program, who is enrolled in a public school work based
361 learning program, and who is pursuing a technical college certificate from a unit of the
362 Technical College System of Georgia that is aligned with a registered apprenticeship
363 program.

364 (8) 'Registered apprenticeship program' or 'apprenticeship program' means an
365 apprenticeship program registered in accordance with 29 C.F.R. Sections 29 and 30 that
366 possesses an approved plan containing all terms and conditions for the qualification,
367 recruitment, selection, employment, and training of apprentices, as required under federal
368 law, including matters such as the requirement for a written apprenticeship agreement.

369 (9) 'Registered pre-apprenticeship program' or 'pre-apprenticeship program' means a
370 pre-apprenticeship program approved by the Technical College System of Georgia that
371 possesses an approved plan containing all terms and conditions for the qualification,
372 recruitment, selection, employment, and training of pre-apprentices, including matters
373 such as the requirement for a written pre-apprenticeship agreement."

374 **SECTION 13.**

375 Said title is further amended in said article by revising Code Section 20-4-151, relating to
376 purpose, employer or apprenticeship sponsorships, required information, contracts, awards,
377 and limitations, as follows:

378 "20-4-151.

379 (a) Subject to appropriations of funds by the General Assembly for this purpose, the board,
380 in coordination with the ~~Department of Labor, the Department of Economic Development,~~
381 ~~the Department of Education, Office of Education and Workforce Strategy~~ and the Office
382 of Planning and Budget, shall establish and administer a program through the ~~Office of~~
383 ~~Workforce Development~~ Technical College System of Georgia to be called the High
384 Demand Apprenticeship Program Top State for Talent Pre-Apprenticeship and
385 Apprenticeship Program. The purpose of the High Demand Top State for Talent
386 Pre-Apprenticeship and Apprenticeship Program is to incentivize pre-apprenticeship and
387 apprenticeship sponsors to establish new or grow existing registered pre-apprenticeship and
388 apprenticeship programs in Georgia in order to support the growth of pre-apprenticeship
389 or apprenticeship programs and expand high-quality work based learning experiences in
390 high-demand fields and careers for persons in Georgia to increase program utilization.

391 (b) An employer sponsor or pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship sponsor may apply to the
392 board for the opportunity to enter into a contract to perform the requirements of conducting
393 ~~an~~ a pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship program for a specific apprentice. Such contract
394 shall require the employer sponsor's apprentice, pre-apprenticeship, or apprenticeship
395 sponsor's apprentice to successfully complete ~~an~~ a pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship
396 program.

397 (c) The board shall provide upon request and on the Technical College System of
398 Georgia's public website information about the High Demand Top State for Talent
399 Pre-Apprenticeship and Apprenticeship Program, the application, application instructions,
400 and the application period established each year for contracts for services available under
401 such program.

402 (d) Upon successful completion of the requirements of a contract under this article, the
403 board shall provide a contract completion award to the employer sponsor or
404 pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship sponsor. The contract completion award amount shall

405 be determined based on the number of hours of education and training required for the
 406 successful completion of the pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship under such
 407 pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship program but shall not exceed:

408 (1) Ten thousand dollars per apprentice for contracts entered into before July 1, 2024;
 409 and

410 (2) Five thousand dollars per apprentice for contracts entered into on or after July 1,
 411 2024.

412 (e) Each employer sponsor or pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship sponsor shall only be
 413 eligible to enter into contracts under this article for up to:

414 (1) Five pre-apprentices or apprentices per year through the end of Fiscal Year 2024; and

415 (2) Ten pre-apprentices or apprentices per year beginning with Fiscal Year 2025 and
 416 continuing each fiscal year thereafter.

417 (f) ~~An~~ A pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship sponsor may assist with the application for
 418 and completion of ~~an~~ a pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship contract authorized by this
 419 article.

420 (g) Beginning July 1, 2024, and continuing thereafter, the ~~Office of Workforce~~
 421 Development Technical College System of Georgia shall be authorized to:

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

424 (2) Provide funding to award employer sponsors or apprenticeship sponsors up to
 425 \$2,500.00 per apprentice 12 months after the start of his or her pre-apprenticeship or
 426 apprenticeship."

427 **SECTION 14.**

428 Said title is further amended in said article by revising Code Section 20-4-152, relating to
 429 utilization of the High-demand Career List, as follows:

430 "20-4-152.

431 The board ~~and the Office of Workforce Development~~ shall utilize the ~~High-demand~~
432 High-Demand Career List ~~as provided for~~ in Code Section 34-14-3 for purposes of the
433 ~~High Demand~~ Top State for Talent Pre-Apprenticeship and Apprenticeship Program."

434 **SECTION 15.**

435 Said title is further amended in said article by revising Code Section 20-4-153, relating to
436 annual reporting and cooperation from apprenticeship sponsor, as follows:

437 "20-4-153.

438 (a) The ~~Office of Workforce Development~~ Technical College System of Georgia shall
439 annually report on its website the following information:

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

441 (2) The amount of compensation awarded in each field of high-demand careers identified
442 by the State Workforce Development Board pursuant to Code Section 34-14-3;

443 (3) The total number of contracts entered into and the number of contracts completed;

444 (4) The total number of contracts entered per eligible occupation and the number of those
445 completed;

446 (5) The total amount awarded overall with respect to each eligible occupation;

447 (6) The total number of pre-apprentices or apprentices who attended an institution of the
448 Technical College System of Georgia during the course of his or her pre-apprenticeship
449 or apprenticeship program; and

450 (7) The total number of apprentices who did not attend an institution of the Technical
451 College System of Georgia during the course of his or her pre-apprenticeship or
452 apprenticeship program.

453 (b) Each pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship sponsor shall fully cooperate in providing
454 statistical information requested by the board or, at the board's discretion, be excluded from

455 participating in the ~~High Demand~~ Top State for Talent Pre-Apprenticeship and
 456 Apprenticeship Program."

457 **SECTION 16.**

458 Said title is further amended in said article by revising Code Section 20-4-154, relating to
 459 rules and regulations, as follows:

460 "20-4-154.

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

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

465 (2) Establishing an amount of funding that will place priority on the availability of
 466 awards for the pre-apprenticeship program established by this article;

467 ~~(2)~~(3) Application scoring criteria that shall include provisions that give priority to
 468 pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship programs that hire and train apprentices who are:

469 (A) ~~Between 15 and 21 years of age~~ Fifteen years of age or older in any public school
 470 work based learning program; or

471 (B) Enrolled in an adult education program and engaged in obtaining a high school
 472 diploma;

473 ~~(3)~~(4) The minimum score necessary for approval of a contract; and

474 ~~(4)~~(5) The terms of agreement between an employer sponsor or pre-apprenticeship or
 475 apprenticeship sponsor and the board."

476 **SECTION 17.**

477 Said title is further amended in said article by revising Code Section 20-4-156, relating to
 478 repealer, as follows:

479 "20-4-156.

480 This article shall stand repealed and reserved on July 1, ~~2027~~ 2031."

481 **SECTION 18.**

482 Said title is further amended in Article 8 of said chapter, relating to the public service
483 apprenticeship program, by revising Code Section 20-4-160, relating to definitions, as
484 follows:

485 "20-4-160.

486 As used in this article, the term:

487 (1) 'Apprentice' means an individual at least 15 years of age, except where a higher
488 minimum age standard is otherwise set by law, who is employed to learn an occupation
489 in a registered apprenticeship program. ~~a person who is at least 15 years of age, except~~
490 ~~where a higher minimum age is required by law, who is employed in an eligible~~
491 ~~apprenticeable occupation, and is registered in Georgia with the United States~~
492 ~~Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship.~~

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

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

499 ~~(4)~~(3) 'Apprenticeship sponsor' means:

500 (A) Any entity operating an apprenticeship program; or

501 (B) Any entity in whose name an apprenticeship program is being operated that is
502 registered with or approved by the United States Department of Labor Office of
503 Apprenticeship.

504 ~~(5)~~(4) 'Board' means the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia.

505 ~~(6)(5)~~ 'Eligible apprenticeable occupation' means an apprenticeable occupation identified
 506 by the State Workforce Development Board pursuant to Code Section 34-14-3 as a
 507 high-demand career Office of Workforce Development pursuant to Code Section
 508 20-4-152 as a high-demand job.

509 ~~(7)~~ 'Office of Workforce Development' means the Technical College System of Georgia's
 510 Office of Workforce Development.

511 ~~(8)(6)~~ 'Public service sponsor' means a state or local government entity that coordinates
 512 with or is an apprenticeship sponsor and employs and trains an apprentice.

513 ~~(7)~~ 'Pre-apprentice' means an individual at least 15 years of age, except where a higher
 514 minimum age standard is otherwise set by law, who is employed to learn an occupation
 515 in a registered pre-apprenticeship program, who is enrolled in a public school work based
 516 learning program, and who is pursuing a technical college certificate from a unit of the
 517 Technical College System of Georgia that is aligned with a registered apprenticeship
 518 program.

519 ~~(8)~~ 'Registered apprenticeship program' or 'apprenticeship program' means an
 520 apprenticeship program registered in accordance with 29 C.F.R. Sections 29 and 30 that
 521 possesses an approved plan containing all terms and conditions for the qualification,
 522 recruitment, selection, employment, and training of apprentices, as required under federal
 523 law, including matters such as the requirement for a written apprenticeship agreement.

524 ~~(9)~~ 'Registered pre-apprenticeship program' or 'pre-apprenticeship program' means a
 525 pre-apprenticeship program approved by the Technical College System of Georgia that
 526 possesses an approved plan containing all terms and conditions for the qualification,
 527 recruitment, selection, employment, and training of pre-apprentices, including matters
 528 such as the requirement for a written pre-apprenticeship agreement."

529 **SECTION 19.**

530 Said title is further amended in said chapter by adding a new article to read as follows:

H. B. 1302 (SUB)

531 "ARTICLE 10532 20-4-200.533 As used in this article, the term:534 (1) 'Apprentice' means an individual at least 15 years of age, except where a higher
535 minimum age standard is otherwise set by law, who is employed to learn an occupation
536 in a registered apprenticeship program.537 (2) 'Apprenticeship agreement' means a written agreement between an apprentice and
538 either the apprentice's program sponsor or an apprenticeship committee acting as an agent
539 for the program sponsor, which contains the terms and conditions of the employment and
540 training of the apprentice and which complies with the provisions of 29 C.F.R.
541 Section 29.7.542 (3) 'Board' means the State Workforce Development Board.543 (4) 'Commissioner' means the commissioner of the Technical College System of
544 Georgia.545 (5) 'Pre-apprentice' means an individual at least 15 years of age, except where a higher
546 minimum age standard is otherwise set by law, who is employed to learn an occupation
547 in a registered pre-apprenticeship program, who is enrolled in a public school work based
548 learning program, and who is pursuing a technical college certificate from a unit of the
549 Technical College System of Georgia that is aligned with a registered apprenticeship
550 program.551 (6) 'Registered apprenticeship program' or 'apprenticeship program' means an
552 apprenticeship program registered in accordance with 29 C.F.R. Sections 29 and 30 that
553 possesses an approved plan containing all terms and conditions for the qualification,
554 recruitment, selection, employment, and training of apprentices, as required under federal
555 law, including matters such as the requirement for a written apprenticeship agreement.

556 (7) 'Registered pre-apprenticeship program' or 'pre-apprenticeship program' means a
557 pre-apprenticeship program approved by the Technical College System of Georgia that
558 possesses an approved plan containing all terms and conditions for the qualification,
559 recruitment, selection, employment, and training of pre-apprentices, including matters
560 such as the requirement for a written pre-apprenticeship agreement.

561 (8) 'Secretary' means the United States Secretary of Labor.

562 (9) 'Sponsor' means any employer, employer association, labor organization, joint
563 labor-management organization, or other entity that operates or seeks to operate a
564 registered apprenticeship program.

565 (10) 'State apprenticeship agency' or 'registration agency' means a state apprenticeship
566 agency recognized by the United States Department of Labor and responsible for carrying
567 out the duties and powers of such agency pursuant to 29 C.F.R. Section 29.13 within this
568 state.

569 20-4-201.

570 (a) The Technical College System of Georgia is hereby designated as the state
571 apprenticeship agency for the state.

572 (b) The Technical College System of Georgia shall be responsible for carrying out all
573 duties and responsibilities of a registration agency as provided under Part 29 of Subtitle A
574 of Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations, subject to approval and ongoing oversight
575 by the United States Department of Labor.

576 (c) The commissioner shall submit to the Secretary and the administrator of the United
577 States Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship, in accordance with 29 C.F.R.
578 Section 29.13, an application to recognize the Technical College System of Georgia as a
579 state apprenticeship agency.

580 (d) Upon approval by the Secretary, the Technical College System of Georgia shall have
581 the authority within the state to:

- 582 (1) Advance the establishment and growth of registered apprenticeship programs and
583 foster enrollment in apprenticeship programs by providing technical and compliance
584 assistance to sponsors, apprentices, employers, and apprenticeship programs;
585 (2) Register, oversee, and, when necessary, deregister registered apprenticeship programs
586 and related apprenticeship agreements;
587 (3) Issue recognized certificates of registration and completion;
588 (4) Serve as the primary state level point of contact with the United States Department
589 of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship;
590 (5) Develop and maintain a state policy of reciprocity with other states to ensure
591 registration of apprenticeship programs;
592 (6) Ensure compliance with federal and state apprenticeship standards; and
593 (7) Perform such other functions as required of a registration agency under federal law.

594 20-4-202.

595 Consistent with Part 29 of Subtitle A of Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations, the
596 Technical College System of Georgia as a state apprenticeship agency shall have the power
597 and duty to:

- 598 (1) Adopt, promulgate, and enforce rules and regulations necessary to implement this
599 article;
600 (2) Establish apprenticeship standards governing program registration, operation,
601 completion, suspension, and deregistration;
602 (3) Conduct program reviews, quality assurance assessments, monitoring, and
603 compliance investigations;
604 (4) Receive, investigate, and resolve complaints relating to registered apprenticeship
605 programs;
606 (5) Collect and report data required by the United States Department of Labor and the
607 General Assembly;

608 (6) Ensure that the registration of apprenticeship programs occurs only in occupations
609 provided in 29 C.F.R. Section 29.4, and in coordination with the state's High-Demand
610 Career List as provided in Code Section 34-14-3;

611 (7) Develop a nationally recognized state apprenticeship completion credential, as
612 described in 29 C.F.R. Section 29.5, for completing an apprenticeship program registered
613 with the Technical College System of Georgia;

614 (8) Provide technical assistance and guidance to current and prospective program
615 sponsors; and

616 (9) Coordinate apprenticeship activities with the board and local workforce development
617 areas as provided in Code Section 34-14-2, technical colleges, the Department of Labor,
618 the Department of Education, sponsors, registered apprenticeship programs, and other
619 relevant partners.

620 20-4-203.

621 The board shall serve as an adviser to the Technical College System of Georgia on matters
622 related to registered apprenticeship programs, without limiting or superseding the authority
623 of the Technical College System of Georgia as the registration agency.

624 20-4-204.

625 (a) This article shall be administered in a manner fully consistent with Part 29 of
626 Subtitle A of Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations and any other applicable federal
627 law or regulation governing registered apprenticeship.

628 (b) In the event of a conflict between this article and federal law or regulation, federal law
629 or regulation shall control to the extent of such conflict.

630 20-4-205.

631 (a) Upon recognition of the Technical College System of Georgia by the United States
 632 Department of Labor as the state apprenticeship agency, all registered apprenticeship
 633 programs operating in Georgia shall be reported to the Technical College System of
 634 Georgia in accordance with a transition plan submitted by the commissioner and approved
 635 by the Secretary.

636 (b) The state apprenticeship agency shall ensure continuity of registration and minimize
 637 disruption to sponsors and apprentices during the transition."

638 **SECTION 20.**

639 Said title is further amended in Chapter 14, relating to education accountability, by repealing
 640 and reserving Article 1, relating to Alliance of Education Agency Heads.

641 **SECTION 21.**

642 Said title is further amended in Part 1 of Article 2 of said chapter by revising Code Section
 643 20-14-20, relating to definitions relative to education accountability assessment programs,
 644 as follows:

645 "20-14-20.

646 As used in this article, the term:

647 ~~(1) 'Alliance' means the Alliance of Education Agency Heads created in Article 1 of this~~
 648 ~~chapter.~~

649 ~~(2)(1) 'Board of regents' means the Board of Regents of the University System of~~
 650 ~~Georgia.~~

651 ~~(3)(2) 'Director' means the director of the Office of Student Achievement Education and~~
 652 Workforce Strategy or, alternatively, the executive director of the Office of Education
 653 and Workforce Strategy if the individual selected to serve as director is designated with
 654 the title of executive director by the Governor.

655 ~~(4)~~(3) 'Early intervention program' means the program established under Code Section
 656 20-2-153.
 657 ~~(5)~~(4) 'Office' means the Office of ~~Student Achievement~~ Education and Workforce
 658 Strategy."

659 **SECTION 22.**

660 Said title is further amended in Part 2 of said article, relating to the Office of Student
 661 Achievement, by revising Code Section 20-14-25, relating to creation, director, authority,
 662 seal, and administrative assignment, as follows:

663 "20-14-25.

664 (a) ~~There is created~~ Effective July 1, 2026, the Office of Student Achievement shall be
 665 reconstituted as the Office of Education and Workforce Strategy and shall retain all duties,
 666 responsibilities, functions, powers, and authority conferred upon the Office of Student
 667 Achievement as provided by law in effect on June 30, 2026.

668 (b) ~~The chief administrative and executive officer of the office shall be the director, who~~
 669 ~~shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. As directed~~
 670 ~~by the Governor, the director shall coordinate the efforts of all state agencies and relevant~~
 671 ~~entities engaged in activities related to education, student achievement, talent development,~~
 672 ~~and workforce preparedness throughout the state. Subject to the general policy established~~
 673 ~~by the Alliance of Education Agency Heads, the The director shall be responsible for the~~
 674 ~~performance and exercise of the duties, responsibilities, functions, powers, and authority~~
 675 ~~imposed conferred upon the director and the office as provided by law. The director shall~~
 676 ~~receive a salary to be determined by the Governor.~~

677 (c) The director shall have the authority to employ all personnel of the office, subject to
 678 the provisions of this part and all applicable provisions of other laws governing public
 679 employment.

680 (d) The office may adopt a seal for its use and shall be authorized to enter into contracts
681 to fulfill its duties under this article.

682 (e) The office shall be assigned for administrative purposes only, as that term is defined
683 in Code Section 50-4-3, to the Office of Planning and Budget."

684 **SECTION 23.**

685 Said title is further amended in said part by revising Code Section 20-14-26, relating to
686 duties, as follows:

687 "20-14-26.

688 (a) The office shall have the following duties:

689 (1) To create a single state-wide accountability system, establish indicators of
690 performance, rate schools and school systems, develop annual report cards for
691 elementary, middle, and secondary schools, and formulate a system of school awards and
692 interventions. The State Board of Education shall approve a single accountability system
693 for local schools and school systems that incorporates federal law, rules, and regulations
694 relating to accountability;

695 (2) To audit and inspect or cause to be audited or inspected for the purpose of
696 verification, research, analysis, reporting, or for other purposes related to the performance
697 of its powers and duties as provided in this article and for the purposes of auditing
698 pre-kindergarten, elementary, middle grades, and secondary education, postsecondary
699 education, and education ~~work force~~ workforce programs and schools, local school
700 systems, institutes, colleges, universities, regional educational service agencies, and other
701 public education programs and entities as ~~defined by the alliance~~ determined by the
702 director;

703 (3) ~~To serve as staff to the alliance; and~~ To oversee the cross-agency development of a
704 comprehensive state-wide education and workforce plan as provided in Code Section
705 20-14-29.2;

706 (4) ~~To exercise the powers and discharge duties of the alliance, as set forth in Code~~
 707 ~~Section 20-14-8, under the supervision and oversight of the alliance. To assist the~~
 708 ~~Department of Education and the Technical College System of Georgia with creating the~~
 709 ~~combined Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Plan and Perkins State Plan as~~
 710 ~~provided for in Code Sections 20-2-169 and 20-4-17; and~~

711 (5) To create the navigation tool as provided in Code Section 20-14-29.3.

712 (b) ~~The member agencies of the alliance and other~~ executive branch education and
 713 workforce development departments, boards, and offices of this state shall cooperate fully
 714 with the office and shall provide the office with all information ~~that the alliance deems~~
 715 necessary for the office to discharge its accountability duties under this article regarding
 716 the education programs and units governed by such ~~member agencies or other~~ departments,
 717 boards, or offices. These agencies shall share or integrate existing agency data and
 718 technology systems to the extent permitted by state and federal law to improve alignment
 719 and coordination and reduce duplication of efforts.

720 (c) The office shall convene and oversee regular meetings with the agencies provided for
 721 in subsection (b) of this Code section for the purpose of ensuring effective collaboration,
 722 data sharing, and alignment of duties required under this Code section."

723 **SECTION 24.**

724 Said title is further amended in said part by revising Code Section 20-14-27, relating to
 725 required reports and publication format, as follows:

726 "20-14-27.

727 (a) The office shall ~~submit~~ prepare the following reports ~~to the alliance~~:

728 (1) An annual report regarding pre-kindergarten education shall be submitted no later
 729 than December 1 of each year, commencing December 1, 2002. The pre-kindergarten
 730 report shall be an evaluation of the progress made on performance indicators identified
 731 and defined by the office ~~and approved by the alliance~~ for all pre-kindergarten and child

732 care programs under the administrative control of the Department of Early Care and
733 Learning. The pre-kindergarten report shall include information concerning results of the
734 state's investment in each pre-kindergarten program;

735 (2) An annual report regarding elementary and secondary education shall be submitted
736 no later than December 1 of each year, commencing December 1, 2001. The elementary
737 and secondary education report shall be an evaluation of the progress made on
738 performance indicators identified and defined by the office ~~and approved by the alliance~~
739 for all elementary and secondary education programs administered by the Department of
740 Education. The elementary and secondary education report shall include information
741 concerning results of the state's investment in each public school and each public school
742 system;

743 (3) An annual report regarding postsecondary education shall be submitted no later than
744 December 1 of each year, commencing December 1, 2002. The postsecondary education
745 report shall be an evaluation of the progress made on performance indicators identified
746 and defined by the office ~~and approved by the alliance~~ for all universities, colleges,
747 institutes, and schools in the University System of Georgia and under the governance of
748 the Technical College System of Georgia. The postsecondary education report shall
749 include information concerning results of the state's investment in each university,
750 college, institute, and school; and

751 (4) An annual report regarding the Georgia education ~~work force~~ workforce shall be
752 submitted no later than December 1 of each year, commencing December 1, 2002. The
753 Georgia education ~~work force~~ workforce report shall be an evaluation of the progress
754 made on performance indicators identified and defined by the office ~~and approved by the~~
755 ~~alliance~~ for the education ~~work force~~ workforce status under the administrative control
756 of the Professional Standards Commission. The Georgia education ~~work force~~ workforce
757 report shall contain information on the results of the state's investments in teacher
758 preparation, educators' professional development, education leadership development,

759 in-field teaching, geographic teacher shortages, alternative routes to teacher certification,
 760 and other general information and indicators on the quality of the education ~~work force~~
 761 workforce.

762 (b) Each report provided for in this Code section shall be published in a format that can
 763 be easily understood by parents and other members of the community who are not
 764 professional educators. Such reports shall be distributed to the Governor;~~;~~ Lieutenant
 765 Governor;~~;~~ the Speaker of the House of Representatives;~~;~~ the chairpersons of the Higher
 766 Education committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, the House Education
 767 Committee, and the Senate Education and Youth Committee;~~;~~ and members of the state
 768 education governing boards or commissions,~~and members of the alliance~~. The office shall
 769 not be required to distribute copies of such reports to the members of the General Assembly
 770 but shall notify such members of the availability of the reports in the manner which it
 771 deems to be most effective and efficient. In addition, such reports shall be posted on the
 772 website of the office."

773 **SECTION 25.**

774 Said title is further amended in said part by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

775 "20-14-29.1.

776 (a) The office shall develop a report detailing the alignment of policies, programs, and
 777 practices of the State Board of Education, the Department of Education, the University
 778 System of Georgia, the Technical College System of Georgia, and the Georgia Student
 779 Finance Commission that promotes and advances the objectives of serving student needs,
 780 avoiding duplication of mission, using state resources efficiently, and expanding
 781 opportunities for postsecondary credential attainment.

782 (b) The office shall coordinate and collaborate with the Department of Education, the
 783 University System of Georgia, and the Technical College System of Georgia to create the
 784 report required by this Code section that shall include the following:

- 785 (1) A list of the courses articulated from the State Board of Education to the University
786 System of Georgia, the Technical College System of Georgia, and each private
787 postsecondary institution that is an eligible postsecondary institution, as such term is
788 defined in Code Section 20-3-519;
- 789 (2) A list of the courses approved by the Board of Regents of the University System of
790 Georgia and the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia to be
791 transferrable between institutions of the university system and units of the technical
792 college system;
- 793 (3) Of the courses listed as provided for in paragraph (2) of this subsection, identification
794 of the university system baccalaureate degree program or programs for which each such
795 course has been approved by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia
796 to be a degree prerequisite;
- 797 (4) Of the courses listed as provided for in paragraph (2) of this subsection, identification
798 of the technical college system degree program or programs for which each such course
799 has been approved by the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia to be
800 a degree prerequisite;
- 801 (5) A summary of efforts undertaken by the Technical College System of Georgia in
802 collaboration with the University System of Georgia to reduce barriers to degree
803 completion by students who have earned course credits in the University System of
804 Georgia, the Technical College System of Georgia, or both;
- 805 (6) A list of the courses approved by each private postsecondary institution that is an
806 eligible postsecondary institution, as such term is defined in Code Section 20-3-519, and
807 the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia to be transferrable between
808 units of such private postsecondary institution and the technical college system;
- 809 (7) A list of the courses approved by each private postsecondary institution that is an
810 eligible postsecondary institution, as such term is defined in Code Section 20-3-519, and

811 the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia to be transferrable between
812 units of such private postsecondary institution and the university system;

813 (8) A summary of efforts undertaken to develop plans and procedures for reverse
814 transfers. As used in this paragraph, the term "reverse transfer" means the process of
815 transferring the credits a student has earned from a four-year institution to any unit of the
816 Technical College System of Georgia from which a student has transferred so that such
817 credits will be available to such student for purposes of his or her enrollment in or
818 completion of programs offered by the Technical College System of Georgia;

819 (9) A summary of the efforts undertaken on behalf of the Technical College System of
820 Georgia, the University System of Georgia, and the State Board of Education to comply
821 with the requirements of subsection (b) of Code Section 20-4-20;

822 (10) A summary of efforts undertaken to align articulated, transferrable courses and
823 degree completion to the High-Demand Career List published by the State Workforce
824 Development Board as provided in Code Section 34-14-3, including the total number of
825 articulation agreements aligned to such list for the State Board of Education, the
826 University System of Georgia, and the Technical College System of Georgia;

827 (11) The number of students enrolled in programs of study provided for in subsection (a)
828 of Code Section 20-2-159.1 receiving articulated credit with the University System of
829 Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia and which credits those students
830 receive; and

831 (12) Of the articulation agreements listed as provided for in paragraph (1) of this
832 subsection, identification of the number of articulated credits awarded, which institutions
833 awarded which credits, and the local school system or public school represented by the
834 students who earned such credits.

835 (c) The report required by this Code section shall be included in the state-wide education
836 and workforce plan provided for in Code Section 20-14-29.2.

837 (d) All relevant state agencies and educational institutions included in this process shall
838 cooperate in collecting and sharing data necessary for the preparation of the report required
839 by this Code section, subject to applicable privacy protections, within a predetermined time
840 frame as set by the data sharing agreement by the office."

841 **SECTION 26.**

842 Said title is further amended in said part by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

843 "20-14-29.2.

844 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'participating agencies' means the Georgia
845 Student Finance Commission, the Technical College System of Georgia, the University
846 System of Georgia, the Department of Education, the Department of Labor, and the State
847 Workforce Development Board.

848 (b) The office shall develop a state-wide education and workforce plan in collaboration
849 with the participating agencies and any other agencies necessary to support the plan's
850 creation. The plan shall include:

851 (1) The programs, initiatives, and activities supporting the Governor's education and
852 workforce priorities and those outlined in this article and in the combined Workforce
853 Innovation and Opportunity Act Plan and Perkins State Plan as provided for in Code
854 Sections 20-2-169 and 20-4-17;

855 (2) A report on the effectiveness of employment, wage attainment, and retention of
856 students in programs that align with the High-Demand Career List as provided in Code
857 Section 34-14-3 and the return on investment report as provided in Code Section 34-14-4;

858 (3) A comprehensive, updated collection of information on all educational and
859 occupational credentials that are granted, issued, funded, or governed by the state,
860 including, but not limited to, diplomas, certificates, certifications, microcredentials,
861 digital badges, pre-apprenticeships, apprenticeships, licenses, and degrees of all types and

862 levels. Such collection of information shall also identify those credentials that are aligned
863 to the High-Demand Career List as provided in Code Section 34-14-3; and
864 (4) The report provided for in Code Section 20-14-91.
865 (c) The time frame of the state-wide education and workforce plan shall coincide with the
866 time frame required by the combined Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Plan and
867 Perkins State Plan as provided for in Code Sections 20-2-169 and 20-4-17.
868 (d) The office shall meet at least quarterly with the participating agencies and any other
869 agencies necessary to support the state-wide education and workforce plan's creation.
870 (e) Upon its completion, the state-wide education and workforce plan shall be presented
871 to the State Workforce Development Board for approval. Included in such presentation
872 shall be a report of progress made toward objectives included in the plan. Upon the plan's
873 approval by the State Workforce Development Board, the plan shall be submitted to the
874 Governor."

875 **SECTION 27.**

876 Said title is further amended in said part by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

877 "20-14-29.3.

878 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'navigation tool' means a secure, user-friendly,
879 online platform that connects individuals with personalized academic and training
880 information, guidance, and resources provided by local public school systems, the
881 Technical College System of Georgia, the University System of Georgia, the Department
882 of Labor, the Georgia Student Finance Commission, and any other relevant entity.

883 (b) The office shall create a navigation tool for the purpose of assisting students, parents,
884 counselors, educators, and job seekers in identifying secondary, postsecondary, and
885 workforce training opportunities in this state.

886 (c) The navigation tool shall:

- 887 (1) Be a comprehensive inventory of all state approved education and training assets in
888 this state;
- 889 (2) Provide clear guidance on programs of study, financial aid options, and credentialing
890 opportunities aligned with careers, including, but not limited to, those identified on the
891 High-Demand Career List as provided in Code Section 34-14-3;
- 892 (3) Utilize existing agency data and technology systems to the extent permitted by state
893 and federal law for the purpose of improving program coordination and reduce
894 duplication of efforts;
- 895 (4) Include annual updates and enhancements to ensure accuracy, accessibility, ease of
896 use, and continued alignment with evolving workforce needs; and
- 897 (5) Provide any other relevant guidance as needed.
- 898 (d) The Department of Education, the Technical College System of Georgia, the
899 University System of Georgia, the Department of Labor, and the Georgia Student Finance
900 Commission shall provide the office with such data, technical assistance, program
901 information, and promotion of user awareness as are necessary for the operation of the
902 navigation tool and the successful implementation of this Code section. Each agency may
903 designate a liaison to fulfill the requirements of this subsection if necessary.
- 904 (e) The agencies listed in subsection (d) of this Code section shall ensure that any relevant
905 technology systems or platforms used by the agency are compatible with, and capable of
906 integrating with, the navigation tool."

907 **SECTION 28.**

908 Said title is further amended in said part by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

909 "20-14-29.4.

910 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'board' shall mean the Education Data
911 Governance Board.

912 (b) There is created within the office an Education Data Governance Board for the purpose
913 of coordinating state-wide education data governance.

914 (c) The board shall be composed of the following agency heads, or their designees:

915 (1) The Office of Education and Workforce Strategy;

916 (2) The Department of Education;

917 (3) The State Charter Schools Commission;

918 (4) The Technical College System of Georgia;

919 (5) The University System of Georgia;

920 (6) The Georgia Student Finance Commission;

921 (7) The Department of Early Care and Learning;

922 (8) The Professional Standards Commission;

923 (9) The Office of Planning and Budget;

924 (10) The Department of Labor; and

925 (11) Such other agency or entity that the board deems necessary for data collection.

926 (d) The board shall serve as the primary interagency forum for the coordination and
927 governance of cross-agency education and workforce data systems, including, but not
928 limited to, the state-wide longitudinal data system, and interagency data sharing agreements
929 and memoranda of understanding that enable the lawful sharing and appropriate use of data
930 among such agencies. In addition, the board shall:

931 (1) Establish shared standards, roles and responsibilities, and best practices for the
932 collection, use, privacy, security, stewardship, and quality of education and workforce
933 data used across agencies;

934 (2) Develop and maintain policies and coordinated timelines for data quality standards,
935 validation protocols, and cross-agency data collection, cleaning, sharing, and availability
936 to ensure accurate and timely reporting for accountability, research, and policy analysis;

937 (3) Promote alignment of data definitions, reporting standards, and interoperability
938 across agency data systems, where appropriate;

- 939 (4) Identify opportunities to reduce duplicative data collection and improve state and
940 federal reporting efficiency;
- 941 (5) Provide information and analysis to the Governor and the General Assembly on data
942 related issues impacting education and workforce policy;
- 943 (6) Provide governance, coordination, and guidance related to comprehensive,
944 system-wide data systems supporting state-wide accountability;
- 945 (7) Identify dependencies, sequencing, and agency-specific inputs necessary to support
946 accurate and timely cross-agency data use and reporting;
- 947 (8) Support lawful and ethical data sharing in compliance with all applicable state and
948 federal laws, including but not limited to the federal Family Educational Rights and
949 Privacy Act; and
- 950 (9) Provide a forum for resolving cross-agency data governance issues related to data
951 access, stewardship, and use.
- 952 (e) The office shall provide necessary staffing and support for the board, including
953 coordinating meetings and work groups related to cross-agency data systems, facilitating
954 the development of shared data governance frameworks and documents, and supporting
955 coordination among agencies contributing to or utilizing cross-agency data systems,
956 including the state-wide longitudinal data system.
- 957 (f) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to:
- 958 (1) Transfer statutory authority from any agency represented on the board to another
959 agency or entity; or
- 960 (2) Require the disclosure of personally identifiable information, except as otherwise
961 permitted by law."

962 **SECTION 29.**

963 Said title is further amended in Part 3 of said article, relating to accountability assessment,
964 by revising subsection (d) of Code Section 20-14-35, relating to office powers, on-site audits,
965 reporting findings and recommendations, and authorization of other school audits, as follows:
966 "(d) The auditors shall report to the local board of education, the local school council, and
967 appropriate school administrators and shall report findings and recommendations
968 concerning any necessary improvements or intervention strategies. School audit reports
969 shall be provided to ~~the alliance~~ and the State Board of Education."

970 **SECTION 30.**

971 Said title is further amended in Part 4 of said article, relating to postsecondary accountability
972 assessment program, by revising subsections (a) and (b) of Code Section 20-14-50, relating
973 to creation, adoption of performance measures, report cards, and audit, as follows:
974 "(a) The office shall create ~~and the council shall adopt~~ the rules and policies that support
975 a postsecondary accountability assessment program that is primarily performance based.
976 (b) The office shall develop ~~and the council shall adopt~~ performance measures and
977 indicators that provide the basis for an accountability report card annually on the University
978 System of Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia."

979 **SECTION 31.**

980 Said title is further amended in Part 5 of said article, relating to the pre-kindergarten
981 accountability assessment program, by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 20-14-60,
982 relating to performance based accountability assessment program, annual accountability
983 report card, and audits, as follows:
984 "(a) ~~The office, with the approval of the council,~~ shall create and the Department of Early
985 Care and Learning shall adopt the rules and policies that support a pre-kindergarten
986 accountability assessment program that is primarily performance based."

987 **SECTION 32.**

988 Said title is further amended in Part 6 of said article, relating to the education work force
 989 accountability assessment program, by replacing "work force" with "workforce" each time
 990 the term appears in and by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 20-14-70, relating to
 991 creation, adoption of performance measures, report cards, and audit, as follows:

992 "(a) The office, ~~with the approval of the council,~~ shall create and the Professional
 993 Standards Commission shall adopt the rules and policies that support an education ~~work~~
 994 ~~force~~ workforce accountability assessment program that is primarily performance based."

995 **SECTION 33.**

996 Said title is further amended in Part 9 of said article, relating to the Career and Technical
 997 Education Advisory Commission, by revising paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of Code
 998 Section 20-14-91, relating to creation, membership, requirements, meetings, and
 999 reimbursement, as follows:

1000 "(b)(1) The commission shall consist of four members of the House of Representatives
 1001 to be appointed by the Speaker of the House, one of whom shall be from the House
 1002 Committee on Economic Development and Tourism, one of whom shall be from the
 1003 House Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, one of whom shall be from the
 1004 House Committee on Education, and one of whom shall be from the House Committee
 1005 on Higher Education; four members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the
 1006 Senate, one of whom shall be from the Senate Economic Development and Tourism
 1007 Committee, one of whom shall be from the Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs
 1008 Committee, one of whom shall be from the Senate Education and Youth Committee, and
 1009 one of whom shall be from the Senate Higher Education Committee; ~~three members who~~
 1010 ~~are not members of the General Assembly to be appointed by the Governor,~~ and three
 1011 members who are not members of the General Assembly to be appointed by the State
 1012 School Superintendent; the commissioner of the Technical College System of Georgia;

1013 the director; the chairperson of the State Workforce Development Board; and the
 1014 chairperson of the State Board of Education."

1015 **SECTION 34.**

1016 Said title is further amended by replacing the term "Office of Workforce Development" with
 1017 "Technical College System of Georgia" wherever the former term appears.

1018 **SECTION 35.**

1019 Title 34 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to labor and industrial relations,
 1020 is amended Chapter 14, relating to the State Workforce Development Board, by revising
 1021 Code Section 34-14-1, relating to creation of State Workforce Development Board, federal
 1022 composition requirements, meetings, promulgation of rules and regulations authorized, and
 1023 administration of programs, as follows:

1024 "34-14-1.

1025 (a)(1) ~~Pursuant to Public Law 105-220 and any subsequent amendment to such law~~ In
 1026 accordance with 29 U.S.C. Section 3111, the State Workforce Development Board is
 1027 ~~hereby created~~ established.

1028 (2) The State Workforce Development Board shall meet federal composition
 1029 requirements. The Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House of Representatives
 1030 shall each have the authority to appoint members as federal law allows. The Governor
 1031 shall be responsible for selecting the remainder of the members, who shall include the
 1032 following representatives of the Technical College System of Georgia and the
 1033 Department of Education: the commissioner of the Technical College System of Georgia,
 1034 the State School Superintendent, one member of the State Board of the Technical College
 1035 System of Georgia, and one member of the State Board of Education.

1036 (3) The State Workforce Development Board's members' terms of service shall be
 1037 established by the Governor and shall be at the discretion of the appointing authority.

- 1038 (4) The State Workforce Development Board shall have powers and duties as specified
1039 by the Governor and as provided for in federal law.
- 1040 (5) The State Workforce Development Board shall be authorized to establish, alter, or
1041 amend local workforce development areas in this state and shall be authorized to
1042 promulgate rules implementing and governing such local workforce development areas
1043 that are compliant with federal law.
- 1044 (6) The State Workforce Development Board shall meet quarterly or when otherwise
1045 requested by the chairperson and shall be governed by a set of bylaws which shall be
1046 voted on and approved by the State Workforce Development Board.
- 1047 (7) The State Workforce Development Board shall be funded by federal law.
- 1048 (8) The State Workforce Development Board shall be authorized to promulgate rules and
1049 regulations for purposes of implementing:
- 1050 (A) The the state's workforce policy that are compliant with federal law; and
1051 (B) The federal Workforce Pell Grant program, as defined by Section 83002 of
1052 P.L. 119-21, to determine whether a Pell Grant-eligible postsecondary institution that
1053 offers short-term programs in the state or enrolls students living in the state in a
1054 short-term program meets the requirements under applicable law. Any such
1055 determination is subject to withdrawal based on criteria established by the State
1056 Workforce Development Board.
- 1057 (9) The State Workforce Development Board shall periodically review the conditions,
1058 needs, issues, and problems related to the career and technical education program in order
1059 to collaborate with the Office of Education and Workforce Strategy to create the
1060 state-wide education and workforce plan provided for in Code Section 20-14-29.2.
- 1061 (10) The State Workforce Development Board shall approve the combined Workforce
1062 Innovation and Opportunity Act Plan and Perkins State Plan and any amendments thereto
1063 as provided for in Code Sections 20-2-169 and 20-4-17.

1064 (b)(1) The Technical College System of Georgia is designated as the administrator of all
 1065 programs for which the state is responsible pursuant to ~~Public Law 105-220 and any~~
 1066 ~~subsequent amendment to such law~~ 29 U.S.C. Section 3111.

1067 (2) The Technical College System of Georgia shall administer such programs and their
 1068 associated funds pursuant to the policies and methods of implementation which are
 1069 promulgated by the State Workforce Development Board and the Governor.

1070 (3) In collaboration with the Technical College System of Georgia, the Office of
 1071 Education and Workforce Strategy is designated as the agency to support the State
 1072 Workforce Development Board in carrying out its responsibilities related to the
 1073 High-Demand Career List as provided in Code Section 34-14-3 and the return on
 1074 investment report as provided in Code Section 34-14-4.

1075 (4) The Technical College System of Georgia shall be the authorized state entity to
 1076 administer the federal Workforce Pell Grant program, as defined by Section 83002 of
 1077 P.L. 119-21.

1078 (c) The State Workforce Development Board shall be assigned to the Office of Education
 1079 and Workforce Strategy for board operational purposes, including but not limited to staff
 1080 support for fulfilling its duties. To ensure program alignment, the Technical College
 1081 System of Georgia and the Department of Education shall also provide the State Workforce
 1082 Development Board with the necessary resources and staff support to fulfill its duties."

1083 **SECTION 36.**

1084 Said title is further amended in said chapter by revising the introductory language of
 1085 subsection (a) of Code Section 34-14-3, relating to the High-demand Career List, as follows:
 1086 "34-14-3.

1087 (a) ~~The State Workforce Development Board~~ Office of Education and Workforce Strategy
 1088 shall develop and approve a ~~High-demand~~ High-Demand Career List that shall identify
 1089 those careers most critical to the state's current and future workforce needs. As directed

1090 by the Governor, the ~~State Workforce Development Board~~ Office of Education and
1091 Workforce Strategy shall coordinate and collaborate with the ~~Office of Student~~
1092 ~~Achievement~~ State Workforce Development Board, the Department of Education, the
1093 Department of Labor, the Technical College System of Georgia, the University System of
1094 Georgia, and the Georgia Student Finance Commission to develop and implement a
1095 data-driven methodology to determine which careers merit inclusion on ~~High-demand~~
1096 High-Demand Career List, regionally or state wide. The ~~High-demand~~ High-Demand
1097 Career List shall:"

1098 **SECTION 37.**

1099 Said title is further amended in said chapter by revising Code Section 34-14-4, relating to
1100 return of investment analysis of secondary and postsecondary programs, evaluation and
1101 reporting requirements, and cooperation, as follows:

1102 "34-14-4.

1103 (a) The ~~State Workforce Development Board~~ Office of Education and Workforce Strategy
1104 shall be responsible for oversight of a return on investment analysis to evaluate and report
1105 on the effectiveness of secondary and postsecondary programs aligned with the priority
1106 areas identified by the State Workforce Development Board and included on the
1107 ~~High-demand~~ High-Demand Career List ~~published by the State Workforce Development~~
1108 ~~Board~~ as provided in Code Section 34-14-3.

1109 (b) As directed by the Governor, the ~~State Workforce Development Board~~ Office of
1110 Education and Workforce Strategy shall coordinate and collaborate with the ~~Office of~~
1111 ~~Student Achievement~~ State Workforce Development Board, the Department of Education,
1112 the Department of Labor, the University System of Georgia, the Technical College System
1113 of Georgia, ~~the University System of Georgia,~~ and the Georgia Student Finance
1114 Commission to develop the return on investment methodology utilizing an analysis of data
1115 sources that include, but are not limited to, existing federal and state resources, longitudinal

1116 outcome tracking of student information, enrollment and program outcomes, and labor
1117 market analysis.

1118 (c) The evaluation and report required by this Code section shall include a comprehensive
1119 review of student participation and outcomes, program alignment with labor market needs,
1120 and recommendations for programmatic adjustments to better meet the needs of Georgia's
1121 businesses, industries, and workforce and shall address, at a minimum, the following:

1122 (1) The percentage of program graduates employed including retention rates and wage
1123 growth over time;

1124 (2) Comparison of graduates' average wages to state, national, and industry benchmarks,
1125 with wage growth assessed at two-year, five-year, and ten-year intervals ~~post-completion~~
1126 postcompletion;

1127 (3) The extent to which skills, certificates, licenses, diplomas, degrees, or other
1128 credentials offered by the State Board of Education, the University System of Georgia,
1129 and the Technical College System of Georgia align with the ~~High-demand~~ High-Demand
1130 Career List published by the State Workforce Development Board as provided in Code
1131 Section 34-14-3;

1132 (4) The percentage of students, at both the secondary and ~~post-secondary~~ postsecondary
1133 levels, that are obtaining any credentials identified in paragraph (3) of this subsection;
1134 and

1135 (5) Transparent information to stakeholders regarding program availability and
1136 outcomes.

1137 (d) The evaluation and report required by this Code section shall be:

1138 (1) Approved by the State Workforce Development Board on or before December 1 of
1139 each even-numbered year;

1140 (2) Submitted by the ~~State Workforce Development Board~~ Office of Education and
1141 Workforce Strategy to the Governor; the President of the Senate; the Speaker of the
1142 House of Representatives; the respective chairs of the House Committee on Education,

1143 the Senate Education and Youth Committee, the House Committee on Higher Education,
 1144 and the Senate Higher Education Committee; and the Office of Planning and Budget; and
 1145 (3) Published on the public websites of the State Workforce Development Board, the
 1146 ~~Office of Student Achievement~~ Office of Education and Workforce Strategy, the
 1147 Department of Education, the University System of Georgia, the Technical College
 1148 System of Georgia, and the Georgia Student Finance Commission on or before December
 1149 31 of each even-numbered year.

1150 (e) All state agencies and political subdivisions of the state, including postsecondary
 1151 ~~education~~ educational institutions and local school systems, shall cooperate in collecting
 1152 and sharing all data and other pertinent information necessary for the implementation of
 1153 the evaluation and preparation of the report required by this Code section, subject to
 1154 applicable privacy protections, within a predetermined time frame as set by the ~~State~~
 1155 ~~Workforce Development Board~~ Office of Education and Workforce Strategy. Such
 1156 agencies and political subdivisions shall use the findings of the report to recommend
 1157 continuation, modification, or discontinuation of programs to better align with workforce
 1158 needs.

1159 (f) The purpose of this Code section is to ensure the effective use of state resources,
 1160 prepare Georgians for high-demand career pathways, and support the state's economic
 1161 development by fostering a workforce aligned with employer needs."

1162 **SECTION 38.**

1163 Said title is further amended in said chapter by repealing Code Section 34-14-5, relating to
 1164 reporting on the alignment of policies, programs, and practices of the State Board of
 1165 Education, the Department of Education, the University System of Georgia, the Technical
 1166 College System of Georgia, and the Georgia Student Finance Commission, requirements, and
 1167 cooperation.

1168 **SECTION 39.**

1169 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, this Act shall become effective on
1170 July 1, 2026.

1171 (b) Section 19 of this Act shall become effective on January 1, 2027.

1172 **SECTION 40.**

1173 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.