

House Bill 1302 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Gambill of the 15<sup>th</sup>, Seabaugh of the 34<sup>th</sup>, Wade of the 9<sup>th</sup>, Dubnik of the 29<sup>th</sup>, Erwin of the 32<sup>nd</sup>, and others

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.