

House Bill 982

By: Representatives Gambill of the 15th, Dubnik of the 29th, Erwin of the 32nd, Martin of the 49th, and Hong of the 103rd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 14 of Title 34 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 State Workforce Development Board, so as to require the State Workforce Development
3 Board to develop, approve, and annually publish a High-demand Career List identifying
4 those careers most critical to the state's current and future workforce needs; to require the
5 State Workforce Development Board to work in consultation with the Office of Workforce
6 Development; to require all state agencies and political subdivisions to utilize the
7 High-demand Career List to ensure effective use of certain federal and state education
8 funding; to amend Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education,
9 so as to provide for conforming changes; to require the Office of Student Achievement to
10 work in consultation with the State Workforce Development Board to audit and report on the
11 effectiveness of employment, wage attainment, and retention of students in programs that
12 align with the High-demand Career List; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
13 laws; and for other purposes.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

H. B. 982

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PART I
SECTION 1-1.

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17 Chapter 14 of Title 34 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the State
18 Workforce Development Board, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as
19 follows:

20 "34-14-3.

21 (a) The State Workforce Development Board shall develop and approve a High-demand
22 Career List that shall identify those careers most critical to the state's current and future
23 workforce needs. The State Workforce Development Board, in consultation with the
24 Office of Workforce Development, shall assess current labor market information and other
25 employment data sources and determine which careers merit inclusion on such list,
26 regionally or state wide, and shall implement a data-driven process to assess present and
27 future growing and declining industries, occupations, skills, and credentials. The
28 High-demand Career List shall:

29 (1) Include the skills, certificates, licenses, diplomas, degrees, or other credentials of
30 value required by employers for the high-demand careers included on the list; and

31 (2) Be published annually on or before December 31 on the State Workforce
32 Development Board's public website.

33 (b) All state agencies and political subdivisions of the state, including local school
34 systems, shall utilize the High-demand Career List to inform their use of federal and state
35 funding for secondary, postsecondary, and adult education programs that lead to
36 certificates, licenses, diplomas, degrees, or other credentials of value in careers on the list
37 to ensure alignment with such list and effective use of funding by such entities."

PART II**SECTION 2-1.**

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40 Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, is amended in
41 Article 7 of Chapter 4, relating to High-demand Career Initiatives Program, by revising
42 paragraph (6) of Code Section 20-4-150, relating to definitions, as follows:

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

SECTION 2-2.

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47 Said article is further amended by revising Code Section 20-4-152, relating to annual
48 publication of high-demand jobs, as follows:

49 "20-4-152.

50 (a) ~~The board, in coordination with and the Office of Workforce Development, shall create~~
51 ~~annually and publish on its website a list of high-demand jobs state wide for purposes of~~
52 ~~the High-demand Career Initiatives Program shall utilize the High-demand Career List~~
53 ~~provided for in Code Section 34-14-3 for purposes of the High-demand Career Initiatives~~
54 Program.

55 (b) ~~The Office of Workforce Development shall publish and maintain criteria for the~~
56 ~~selection of high-demand jobs eligible for the High-demand Career Initiatives Program."~~

SECTION 2-3.

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58 Said article is further amended by revising paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Code Section
59 20-4-153, relating to annual reporting and cooperation from apprenticeship sponsor, as
60 follows:

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

63 **SECTION 2-4.**

64 Said title is further amended in Code Section 20-14-26, relating to duties of the Office of
65 Student Achievement, by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (3) of subsection (a), by
66 replacing the period at the end of paragraph (4) of subsection (a) with "; and", and by adding
67 a new paragraph to read as follows:

68 "(5) As directed by the Governor, to work in consultation with the State Workforce
69 Development Board to audit and report on the effectiveness of employment, wage
70 attainment, and retention of students in programs that align with the High-demand Career
71 List provided for in Code Section 34-14-3."

72 **PART III**

73 **SECTION 3-1.**

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