

The House Committee on Higher Education offers the following substitute to SB 112:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 vocational, technical, and adult education, so as to provide for a pilot program whereby
3 qualifying third parties or the state board provide instruction and other services for certain
4 adults to attain a high school diploma; to provide for requirements of such program; to
5 provide for waivers and variances; to provide for definitions; to provide for rules and
6 regulations; to provide for automatic repeal; to provide for an annual report; to provide for
7 related matters; to provide for a short title; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "High School Diploma for Adult Learners
11 Act."

12 **SECTION 2.**

13 Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to vocational,
14 technical, and adult education, is amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

S. B. 112 (SUB)

15 "ARTICLE 8

16 20-4-160.

17 (a) As used in this article, the term:

18 (1) 'Eligible student' means an individual who:

19 (A) Resides in this state;

20 (B) Is over 21 years of age but under 45 years of age at the time of enrollment;

21 (C) Has not attained a high school diploma;

22 (D) Does not meet any of the ineligibility criteria provided for in subsection (b) of
23 Code Section 20-3-519.1; and

24 (E) Has previously been enrolled in a high school in this state.

25 (2) 'High School Diploma Program for Adult Learners' and 'pilot program' mean the pilot
26 program provided for in this article.

27 (3) 'State board' means the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia.

28 (b)(1) The state board is authorized to establish a pilot program to allow eligible students
29 to qualify for enrollment in the High School Diploma Program for Adult Learners
30 facilitated by participating units of the Technical College System of Georgia and, upon
31 successful completion of the pilot program, to be awarded a high school diploma. The
32 purpose of the pilot program is to assess the feasibility of implementing a state funded
33 program for eligible students to enroll and participate in a program facilitated by a unit
34 of the Technical College System of Georgia and provided by qualifying third parties or
35 the state board which, upon successful completion, allows eligible students to earn high
36 school diplomas.

37 (2) To implement the pilot program, notwithstanding any other provision of law to the
38 contrary, the state board and the State Board of Education shall be authorized to waive
39 or provide variances to state laws, rules, regulations, policies, and procedures and to
40 provisions of this title that may be reasonably necessary to meet the goals of the pilot

41 program. Such waivers or variances shall automatically expire at the end of the pilot
42 program unless an earlier expiration is provided for.

43 (3) The pilot program shall include at least two distinct programs offered by third parties
44 or the state board and shall stand automatically repealed on June 30, 2029.

45 (4)(A) Subject to appropriations specifically for the purpose of this pilot program, the
46 state board is authorized to allocate funds appropriated by the General Assembly for the
47 implementation of the pilot program to third parties which are regionally accredited or
48 partnered with a regionally accredited entity or the state board and which agree to meet
49 all pilot program requirements and to provide the following to eligible students at no
50 cost to such students:

51 (i) Instruction and related services provided by teachers certificated by the
52 Professional Standards Commission;

53 (ii) An instructional program which utilizes evidence based curricula and
54 instructional strategies for adult learners; and

55 (iii) If offered as part of the pilot program, dedicated pilot program facilities which
56 shall meet minimum requirements established by state law or state board policy and
57 which shall include on-site career and academic counseling services, child care
58 services, and transportation assistance programs.

59 (B) Funds allocated pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this paragraph to qualified third
60 parties or the state board shall be paid based on the completion of courses toward the
61 attainment of a high school diploma.

62 (C) The state board is authorized to withhold up to 2 percent of the funds provided for
63 in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph for use in administering the duties required
64 pursuant to this article; provided, however, that any amount withheld pursuant to this
65 subparagraph shall be spent solely and directly on expenses incurred by the Technical
66 College System of Georgia in performing the duties required by this article.

67 (5) Each pilot program location shall annually report the following information to the
68 state board and to the General Assembly by July 31 of each year of the pilot program:
69 (A) The number of eligible students enrolled in the pilot program during the preceding
70 year;
71 (B) The number of courses completed by eligible students enrolled in the pilot program
72 during the preceding year;
73 (C) The demographics of the eligible students enrolled in the pilot program during the
74 preceding year, including age, race, gender, socioeconomic status, and county of
75 residence;
76 (D) The completion rates of the eligible students enrolled in the pilot program during
77 the preceding year; and
78 (E) The outcomes for eligible students who complete the pilot program as of the date
79 of completion and two years after completion, including information concerning such
80 students' job placement outcomes and matriculation into higher education and any other
81 information concerning outcomes required by the state board.
82 (c) The state board shall determine the specific competencies concerning the skills and
83 knowledge needed for completion of each component of the pilot program; provided,
84 however, that the state board shall make such determination regarding the skills and
85 knowledge needed to meet the requirements for a high school diploma as provided for in
86 this article in consultation with the State Board of Education and the Department of
87 Education.
88 (d) The state board shall award a high school diploma to any eligible student enrolled in
89 the pilot program who completes all requirements of the pilot program, including the
90 rigorous coursework required and facilitated by a participating unit of the Technical
91 College System of Georgia and provided by participating third parties or the state board.
92 (e) The state board, in consultation with the State Board of Education, shall establish rules
93 and regulations to implement the provisions of this article."

94

SECTION 3.

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