

Senate Bill 153

By: Senators Dolezal of the 27th and Tillery of the 19th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, so as to
2 provide for GOAL academies; to provide for definitions; to provide for partnerships to
3 establish GOAL academies as charter schools; to provide for the transition of
4 system-collaborative state charter schools to GOAL academies; to provide for funding and
5 for the calculation thereof; to provide for designation; to provide for data collection; to
6 provide for eligibility criteria, requirements, and procedures; to provide for a short title; to
7 provide for related matters; 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 "Graduation Opportunities and Advanced
11 Learning (GOAL) Act."

12 **SECTION 2.**

13 Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, is amended in
14 Article 2 of Chapter 4, relating to technical and adult education, by adding a new Code
15 section to read as follows:

16 "20-4-37.1.

- 17 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:
- 18 (1) 'Charter petitioner' means one or more local boards of education, private individuals,
- 19 private organizations, state or local public entities, or adult learning providers, or any
- 20 group of these working in cooperation, that submits or initiates a petition to establish a
- 21 GOAL academy as a charter school pursuant to Article 31 of Chapter 2 of this title.
- 22 (2) 'Charter school' shall have the same meaning as provided for in paragraph (3) of
- 23 Code Section 20-2-2062.
- 24 (3) 'GOAL academy' means a charter school authorized by the State Board of Education
- 25 and one or more local boards of education with a specialized focus on dropout recovery
- 26 or high school credit recovery.
- 27 (4) 'System-collaborative state charter school' means a charter school authorized by the
- 28 State Charter Schools Commission and governed by a board of directors which shall
- 29 include personnel of the local board or boards of education from the geographic region
- 30 which the charter school serves. Notwithstanding any provision of this Code section to
- 31 the contrary, such schools shall be ineligible for the alternative calculation of funding
- 32 available to state charter schools pursuant to Code Section 20-2-2089.
- 33 (b) Each GOAL academy shall operate with consultation and support of the local school
- 34 system or systems from the geographic region which the GOAL academy serves; provided,
- 35 however, that each such GOAL academy shall be governed by an independent board of
- 36 directors. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude local school systems from providing
- 37 input to a GOAL academy on an advisory basis. The charter contract shall stipulate the
- 38 in-kind services or monetary support to be provided by each such local school system to
- 39 the GOAL academy, which shall be in addition to any funding allocated to the GOAL
- 40 academy pursuant to Code Section 20-2-2068.1.
- 41 (c) The Department of Education and the State Charter Schools Commission may make
- 42 recommendations to the State Board of Education for the approval, denial, and renewal of
- 43 GOAL academy charter petitions and specify the reasons for such recommendations. The

44 State Board of Education shall consider such recommendations prior to approving or
45 denying a charter petition for a GOAL academy.

46 (d)(1) The Department of Education and the State Charter Schools Commission shall
47 establish a process to designate GOAL academies. The State Board of Education shall
48 accept such designation by the Department of Education or the State Charter Schools
49 Commission as one component of determining compliance with charter contract
50 requirements. The State Board of Education may request supplemental information from
51 charter petitioners.

52 (2) Any designation process established pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection shall
53 require the charter petitioner to demonstrate how the proposed GOAL academy will
54 increase graduation opportunities for traditional high school students, decrease dropout
55 rates in local districts, and provide high school credit recovery opportunities.

56 (3) Designation by the Department of Education or the State Charter Schools
57 Commission shall constitute a positive recommendation to the State Board of Education
58 for renewal of a charter school.

59 (4) System-collaborative state charter schools shall become GOAL academies. The State
60 Board of Education shall provide for the transfer and designation of existing
61 system-collaborative state charter schools to GOAL academies not later than the next
62 renewal date of the charter for each system-collaborative state charter school.

63 (e) The Department of Education shall be responsible for collecting and analyzing
64 appropriate data from and about GOAL academies on matters consisting of, but not limited
65 to, GOAL academy effectiveness."

66 **SECTION 3.**

67 Said title is further amended in Article 31 of Chapter 2, relating to the Charter Schools Act
68 of 1988, by adding a new subsection to Code Section 20-2-2068.1, relating to charter school
69 funding, to read as follows:

70 “(j)(1) Locally approved charter schools designated by the Department of Education or
71 the State Charter Schools Commission as GOAL academies as provided for in Code
72 Section 20-4-37.1 and system-collaborative state charter schools shall be eligible to
73 receive an amount equal to 25 percent of the total amount calculated as described in this
74 subsection.

75 (2) The earnings for a student in a GOAL academy shall be equal to the earnings for any
76 other student with similar student characteristics in a GOAL academy, regardless of the
77 local school system in which the student resides or the school system in which the GOAL
78 academy is located, and the Department of Education shall pay to each GOAL academy
79 through appropriation of state funds an amount equal to the sum of:

80 (A) QBE formula earnings and QBE grants earned by the GOAL academy based on
81 the school's enrollment, school profile, and student characteristics. For purposes of this
82 subparagraph, the term 'QBE formula earnings' means funds earned for the Quality
83 Basic Education Formula pursuant to Code Section 20-2-161, including the portion of
84 such funds that are calculated in accordance with Code Section 20-2-164. QBE
85 formula earnings shall include the salary portion of direct instructional costs, the
86 adjustment for training and experience, the nonsalary portion of direct instructional
87 costs, and earnings for psychologists and school social workers, school administration,
88 facility maintenance and operation, media centers, additional days of instruction in
89 accordance with Code Section 20-2-184.1, and staff development, as determined by the
90 department; and a proportional share of earned state categorical grants, non-QBE state
91 grants, transportation grants, school nutrition grants, and all other state grants, except
92 state equalization grants, as determined by the Department of Education; and

93 (B) The state-wide average amount of the total revenues less federal revenues less state
94 revenues other than equalization grants per full-time equivalent for all school systems;
95 provided, however, that, if the average amount of the total revenues less federal
96 revenues less state revenues other than equalization grants per full-time equivalent for

197 the local school systems that comprise the attendance zone of the GOAL academy is
198 less than the state-wide average amount of the total revenues less federal revenues less
199 state revenues other than equalization grants per full-time equivalent for all school
200 systems, then the greater of:

201 (i) The average amount of the total revenues less federal revenues less state revenues
202 other than equalization grants per full-time equivalent for the local school systems
203 that comprise the attendance zone of the GOAL academy; or

204 (ii) The average amount of the total revenues less federal revenues less state revenues
205 other than equalization grants per full-time equivalent for the lowest five school
206 systems ranked by assessed valuation per weighted full-time equivalent count, as
207 determined by the Department of Education.

208 (3) No deduction shall be made to any state funding which a local school system is
209 otherwise authorized to receive pursuant to this chapter as a direct result or consequence
210 of the enrollment in a GOAL academy of a specific student or students who reside in the
211 geographical area of the local school system.

212 (4) Funding for GOAL academies pursuant to this subsection shall be subject to
213 appropriations by the General Assembly and such schools shall be treated consistently
214 with all other public schools in this state, pursuant to the respective statutory funding
215 formulas and grants."

216 **SECTION 4.**

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