

Senate Bill 243

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Wilkinson of the 50th, Anderson of the 24th, Sims of the 12th, Black of the 8th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to provide that the agricultural education
3 program is based on a three-component model; to provide for a pilot program to develop and
4 implement agricultural education in elementary schools; to provide for selection of pilot sites;
5 to provide for program requirements; to provide for a program evaluation; to provide for the
6 Professional Standards Commission to extend in-field certification for agricultural education
7 to include kindergarten through grade five; to provide for related matters; to provide for a
8 short title; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Green Agricultural Education Act."

12 **SECTION 2.**

13 Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
14 "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended by adding new Code sections to Part 3, relating
15 to educational programs, to read as follows:

16 "20-2-154.2.

17 The agricultural education program provided in this state shall be based on the nationally
18 recognized three-component model of school based agricultural education: daily instruction
19 in an organized classroom and lab environment; hands-on, real-world learning opportunities
20 through the supervised agriculture experience (SAE) program; and leadership and learning
21 opportunities through participation in the Future Farmers of America. The curriculum for
22 the agricultural education program shall include equal portions of each of the three
23 components of such model and shall be established by the Department of Education with
24 input from agricultural education teachers.

25 20-2-154.3.

26 (a) The Department of Education, through its Agricultural Education Program, shall be
 27 authorized to establish a pilot program, beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, to provide
 28 for agricultural education in elementary schools in this state. The purpose of the pilot
 29 program shall be to determine whether and how to implement an elementary agricultural
 30 education program state wide.

31 (b) The Department of Education, through its Agricultural Education Program, is
 32 authorized to select six public elementary schools for participation in the pilot program, with
 33 one elementary school in each of the six existing regions established by the agricultural
 34 education program of the Department of Education. The local board of education for each
 35 elementary school selected to be in the pilot program shall agree to implement an
 36 elementary agricultural education program in such school and to continue to provide such
 37 elementary agricultural education program after the expiration of the pilot program. The
 38 local school system may employ an agricultural education teacher to provide such program
 39 for the elementary school.

40 (c) The pilot program shall be based on the nationally recognized three-component model
 41 of school based agricultural education: daily instruction in an organized classroom and lab
 42 environment; hands-on, real-world learning opportunities through the supervised agriculture
 43 experience (SAE) program; and leadership and learning opportunities through participation
 44 in the Future Farmers of America. The curriculum for the elementary agricultural education
 45 program shall include equal portions of each of the three components of such model. The
 46 curriculum for the elementary agricultural education program shall be established by the
 47 Department of Education with input from agricultural education teachers.

48 (d) The Department of Education, through its Agricultural Education Program, shall
 49 provide for a program evaluation regarding the success and impact of the pilot program
 50 upon completion of the third year of the pilot program and shall report the results of such
 51 evaluation to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Education and Youth
 52 Committee."

53 **SECTION 3.**

54 Said article is further amended in Code Section 20-2-200, relating to regulation of certificated
 55 professional personnel by the Professional Standards Commission, by adding a new paragraph
 56 to subsection (b) to read as follows:

57 "(6) No later than July 1, 2017, the Professional Standards Commission shall extend
 58 in-field certification for agricultural education to include kindergarten through grade five."

59 **SECTION 4.**

60 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
61 without such approval.

62 **SECTION 5.**

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