

Senate Bill 330

By: Senators Wilkinson of the 50th, Mullis of the 53rd, Walker III of the 20th, Black of the 8th, Burke of the 11th and others

AS PASSED SENATE

**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
5 sites; to provide for program requirements; to provide for a program evaluation; to provide
6 for the Professional Standards Commission to extend in-field certification for agricultural
7 education to include kindergarten through grade five; to provide for related matters; to
8 provide for a short title; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
9 other purposes.

10 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Georgia Agricultural Education Act."

13 **SECTION 2.**

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

17 "20-2-154.2.

18 The agricultural education program provided in this state to students in grades six through
19 12 shall be based on the nationally recognized three-component model of school based
20 agricultural education: daily instruction in an organized classroom and lab environment;
21 hands-on, experiential learning opportunities through a supervised agriculture experience
22 (SAE) program; and leadership and learning opportunities through participation in the
23 Future Farmers of America. The Department of Education, through its agricultural
24 education program employees, shall develop the curriculum and standards for the
25 agricultural education program, with input from agricultural education teachers, so as to

26 include all three components of such model and local school systems shall include all three
27 components of such model whenever offering any agricultural education course approved
28 by the State Board of Education. The Department of Education shall maintain an adequate
29 number of full-time employees, certified in agricultural education and distributed
30 regionally throughout the state, to develop and maintain the agricultural education
31 curriculum and standards, to assist local school systems on matters related to agricultural
32 education, and to coordinate regional and state-wide activities of the Future Farmers of
33 America.

34 20-2-154.3.

35 (a) The Department of Education, through its agricultural education program, shall be
36 authorized to establish a pilot program, beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, to provide
37 for agricultural education in elementary schools in this state. The purpose of the pilot
38 program shall be to determine whether and how to implement an elementary agricultural
39 education program state wide.

40 (b) The Department of Education, through its agricultural education program employees
41 described in Code Section 20-2-154.2, is authorized to select a minimum of six public
42 elementary schools for participation in the pilot program, with one elementary school in
43 each of the six existing regions established by the agricultural education program of the
44 Department of Education. The local board of education for each elementary school
45 selected to be in the pilot program shall agree to implement and fully fund an elementary
46 agricultural education program in such school and to continue to provide such elementary
47 agricultural education program for a period no shorter than three years. The local school
48 system may employ an agricultural education teacher to provide such program for the
49 elementary school.

50 (c) The Department of Education, through its agricultural education program employees
51 described in Code Section 20-2-154.2, and local school systems shall collaborate to
52 establish the curriculum for each elementary agricultural education program. Such
53 curriculum shall be grade-appropriate and include instruction in an organized classroom;
54 collaborative learning experiences through investigation and inquiry, including laboratory
55 and site-based learning activities; and personal and leadership development opportunities.

56 (d) The Department of Education, through its agricultural education program, shall provide
57 for a program evaluation regarding the success and impact of the pilot program upon
58 completion of the third year of the pilot program and shall report the results of such
59 evaluation to the House Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs and the Senate
60 Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee and to the House Committee on Education
61 and the Senate Education and Youth Committee."

62 **SECTION 3.**

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

66 "(6) No later than July 1, 2019, the Professional Standards Commission shall extend
67 in-field certification for agricultural education to include kindergarten through grade
68 five."

69 **SECTION 4.**

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

72 **SECTION 5.**

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