

Senate Bill 405

By: Senators Dixon of the 45th, Gooch of the 51st, Hickman of the 4th, Kennedy of the 18th, Still of the 48th and others

AS PASSED SENATE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Article 31C of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 the "Completion Special Schools Act," so as to lower the age of eligibility from 18 to 16 for
3 certain students to be enrolled in a completion special school; to revise definitions; to provide
4 for reports of cohort graduation rates by local school system and by completion special
5 school; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 31C of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the
9 "Completion Special Schools Act," is amended by revising paragraphs (5) and (6) of Code
10 Section 20-2-2096.1, relating to definitions, as follows:

11 "(5) 'Dropout' means an individual 16 years of age or older who previously dropped out
12 of school according to the uniform definition of 'dropout' provided for in subsection (f)
13 of Code Section 20-14-33.

14 (6) 'Enrollment eligible student' means:

15 (A) An individual ~~18~~ 16 years of age or older who is eligible for enrollment in
16 appropriate education programs as provided in subsection (a) of Code Section

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17 20-2-150, who meets the definition of dropout provided in paragraph (5) of this Code
18 section, and who is not currently enrolled in a public school in this state; or

19 (B) An individual who is attending a United States Department of Defense Youth
20 Challenge Academy or who is in the custody of a correctional facility, detention
21 facility, jail, prison, or other lawful place of confinement for the period of such
22 attendance or custody."

23 **SECTION 2.**

24 Said article is amended further in Code Section 20-2-2096.2, relating to adoption of policies,
25 procedures, regulations and other such requirements, by adding a new subsection to read as
26 follows:

27 "(c)(1) The state board shall, in consultation with the Office of Student Achievement,
28 adopt policies, procedures, regulations, and other such requirements by which the
29 Department of Education shall prepare a report of cohort graduation rates by local school
30 system and by completion special school.

31 (2) For purposes of the report required in paragraph (1) of this subsection:

32 (A) Enrollment eligible students who are enrolled in a completion special school:

33 (i) During the period of each such student's four-year cohort, shall be included with
34 the local school system in which such student would be enrolled based on his or her
35 residence; and

36 (ii) Outside the period of the four-year cohort, shall be included with the completion
37 special school in which they are enrolled; and

38 (B) Enrollment eligible students who are attending a United States Department of
39 Defense Youth Challenge Academy or who are in the custody of a correctional facility,
40 detention facility, jail, prison, or other lawful place of confinement for the period of
41 such attendance or custody shall be included with the completion special school in
42 which they are enrolled.

43 (3) For purposes of this Code section, a student's four-year cohort shall be measured
44 from October 1 of the calendar year four years immediately preceding the calendar year
45 of the regular date of graduation of such cohort.

46 (4) By December 1 each year, the Department of Education shall publish on its public
47 website and deliver to the State Board of Education and the Office of Student
48 Achievement the report required by paragraph (1) of this subsection for the immediately
49 preceding school year."

50 **SECTION 3.**

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