

Senate Bill 509

By: Senators Parent of the 42nd, Sims of the 12th, Harrell of the 40th, Butler of the 55th, Orrock of the 36th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-2-161.3 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 the "Dual Enrollment Act," purpose, dual credit courses, eligibility for participation, and
3 eligibility for payment, so as to require the Technical College System of Georgia and the
4 University System of Georgia to provide the Georgia Student Finance Commission with a
5 course transfer chart; to require program materials to indicate which courses are transferable;
6 to require eligible high schools to distribute a course transfer chart to eligible students; to
7 provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
8 other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 Code Section 20-2-161.3 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to "Dual
12 Enrollment Act," purpose, dual credit courses, eligibility for participation, and eligibility for
13 payment, is amended by revising subsections (b) and (d) as follows:

14 "(b) For purposes of this Code section, the term:

15 (1) 'Commission' means the Georgia Student Finance Commission created by Code
16 Section 20-3-233.

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17 (2) 'Coalition' means the partnership of the Technical College System of Georgia and the
18 University System of Georgia pursuant to the Complete College Georgia Articulation
19 Agreement.

20 (3) 'Course transfer chart' means the General Education Course Transfer Chart published
21 by the coalition that provides which general education courses are transferable between
22 the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)
23 accredited institutions of the Technical College System of Georgia and the University
24 System of Georgia.

25 (4) 'Department' means the Department of Education.

26 ~~(3)~~(5) 'Dual credit course' means a postsecondary course, including a virtual course,
27 taken by an eligible high school student pursuant to an arrangement at or through an
28 eligible postsecondary institution for which the student receives secondary credit from
29 his or her eligible high school.

30 ~~(4)~~(6) 'Eligible core course' means a course in English, math, science, social studies, or
31 a foreign language upon which the commission calculates grade point averages for HOPE
32 scholarship eligibility pursuant to paragraph (3.1) of subsection (b) of Code Section
33 20-2-157 and which is included in the eligible course list.

34 ~~(5)~~(7) 'Eligible course list' means a list of courses maintained by the commission which
35 identifies courses approved for funding authorized by this Code section and shall include
36 eligible core courses and eligible CTAE courses.

37 ~~(6)~~(8) 'Eligible CTAE course' means all career, technical, and agricultural education
38 courses which are aligned with the department's Career Clusters and Pathways programs
39 and which are included in the eligible course list.

40 ~~(7)~~(9) 'Eligible dual credit course' means a dual credit course which is included in the
41 eligible course list and which is eligible for payment under this program subject to the
42 following maximum credit hour caps:

43 (A) Eligible high school students with 18 or fewer semester hours, or the equivalent
 44 amount of quarter hours, of dual credit courses funded under this part on or before June
 45 30, 2020, shall be limited to a total of 30 semester hours, or the equivalent amount of
 46 quarter hours, of eligible dual credit courses; and

47 (B) Eligible high school students with 19 or more semester hours, or the equivalent
 48 amount of quarter hours, of dual credit courses funded under this part on or before June
 49 30, 2020, shall be limited to 12 additional semester hours, or the equivalent amount of
 50 quarter hours, of eligible dual credit courses.

51 ~~(8)~~(10) 'Eligible high school' means any private or public secondary educational
 52 institution located within the State of Georgia and any home study program operated
 53 pursuant to Code Section 20-2-690.

54 ~~(9)~~(11) 'Eligible high school student' means a student who is:

55 (A) Entering or enrolled in eleventh or twelfth grade at an eligible high school taking
 56 any eligible dual credit course at any eligible postsecondary institution; or

57 (B) Entering or enrolled in tenth grade at an eligible high school when such student:

58 (i) Is enrolled in an eligible CTAE course at an institution within the Technical
 59 College System of Georgia;

60 (ii) Has obtained prior to the beginning of the term of dual enrollment coursework
 61 an SAT or ACT test score that would meet the assessment requirements of a Zell
 62 Miller Scholar pursuant to division (27)(A)(i) of Code Section 20-3-519 and is taking
 63 eligible core courses at any eligible postsecondary institution; or

64 (iii) Was enrolled as a ninth grader in one or more dual credit courses at an eligible
 65 postsecondary institution for which payment was made under this part on or before
 66 June 30, 2020.

67 ~~(10)~~(12) 'Eligible postsecondary institution' or 'postsecondary institution' means an
 68 eligible postsecondary institution as defined in paragraph (7) of Code Section 20-3-519.

69 ~~(11)~~(13) 'Program' means the arrangement authorized by this Code section whereby an
70 eligible high school student takes one or more dual credit courses with the goal of
71 completing postsecondary credit and high school diploma requirements.

72 ~~(12)~~(14) 'Secondary credit' means high school credit for dual credit courses taken at or
73 through an eligible postsecondary institution under the program."

74 "(d)(1) As soon as available, but no later than the first day of February each year, the
75 coalition shall provide the commission with the course transfer chart. In consultation
76 with and subject to approval by the commission, the department shall develop appropriate
77 forms and counseling guidelines for the program and shall make such forms and
78 guidelines available to eligible high schools and eligible postsecondary institutions. Such
79 materials shall indicate which courses are transferable pursuant to the course transfer
80 chart. No later than the first day of February each year, each eligible high school shall
81 provide general information about the program, including such forms, to all its eligible
82 high school students.

83 (2) No later than the first day of February each year, each eligible high school shall
84 provide to all its eligible high school students a current copy of the course transfer chart
85 to guide course selection and inform students as to which dual courses are universally
86 transferable.

87 (3) An eligible high school shall also provide counseling services to such students and
88 their parents or guardians before the students enroll in the program. Prior to participating
89 in the program, the student and the student's parent or guardian shall sign the form
90 provided by the eligible high school or by an eligible postsecondary institution stating
91 that they have received the counseling specified in this subsection and that they
92 understand the responsibilities that shall be assumed in participating in the program.
93 Program information and materials shall be provided to each eighth grade public school
94 student at the time the student is developing his or her individual graduation plan as
95 required by Code Section 20-2-327."

96

SECTION 2.

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