

Senate Bill 379

By: Senators Strickland of the 17th, Dugan of the 30th, Thompson of the 14th, Miller of the 49th, Jones of the 25th and others

AS PASSED

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 vocational, technical, and adult education, so as to provide for the State Board of the
3 Technical College System of Georgia to establish a program to promote the creation and
4 expansion of registered apprenticeship programs in the state; to provide the purpose of such
5 program; to authorize the board to enter into contracts with employer sponsors for the
6 successful completion of the education, training, and other requirements of apprentices in
7 Georgia; to provide application requirements and procedures; to authorize contract
8 completion awards; to require the board to create and publish a list of high-demand jobs in
9 Georgia; to require a report; to authorize the acceptance of grants and other funds; to provide
10 for definitions; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for a repealer; to provide for
11 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

13 **SECTION 1.**

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

S. B. 379

16

"ARTICLE 717 20-4-150.18 As used in this article, the term:

19 (1) 'Apprentice' means a person who is at least 15 years of age, except where a higher
20 minimum age is required by law, who is employed in an eligible apprenticeable
21 occupation, and is registered in Georgia with the United States Department of Labor
22 Office of Apprenticeship.

23 (2) 'Apprenticeable occupation' means an occupation approved for apprenticeship by the
24 United States Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship.

25 (3) 'Apprenticeship program' means a program registered with the United States
26 Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship that includes terms and conditions for the
27 qualification, recruitment, selection, employment, and training of apprentices, including
28 the requirement for a written apprenticeship agreement.

29 (4) 'Apprenticeship sponsor' means:

30 (A) Any entity operating an apprenticeship program; or

31 (B) Any entity in whose name an apprenticeship program is being operated that is
32 registered with or approved by the United States Department of Labor Office of
33 Apprenticeship.

34 (5) 'Board' means the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia.

35 (6) 'Eligible apprenticeable occupation' means an apprenticeable occupation identified
36 by the Office of Workforce Development pursuant to Code Section 20-4-152 as a
37 high-demand job.

38 (7) 'Employer sponsor' means an employer that coordinates with or is an apprenticeship
39 sponsor and employs and trains an apprentice.

40 (8) 'Office of Workforce Development' means the Technical College System of Georgia's
41 Office of Workforce Development.

42 20-4-151.

43 (a) Subject to appropriations of funds by the General Assembly for this purpose, the board,
44 in coordination with the Department of Labor, the Department of Economic Development,
45 the Department of Education, and the Office of Planning and Budget, shall establish and
46 administer a program through the Office of Workforce Development to be called the
47 High-demand Career Initiatives Program. The purpose of the program is to incentivize
48 apprenticeship sponsors to establish new or grow existing registered apprenticeship
49 programs in Georgia in order to support the growth of apprenticeship programs and expand
50 high-quality work-based learning experiences in high-demand fields and careers for
51 persons in Georgia.

52 (b) An employer sponsor may apply to the board for the opportunity to enter into a
53 contract to perform the requirements of conducting an apprenticeship program for a
54 specific apprentice. Such contract shall require the employer sponsor's apprentice to
55 successfully complete an apprenticeship program.

56 (c) The board shall provide upon request and on the Technical College System of
57 Georgia's website information about the program, the application, application instructions,
58 and the application period established each year for contracts for services available under
59 the program.

60 (d) Upon successful completion of the requirements of a contract under this article, the
61 board shall provide a contract completion award to the employer sponsor. The contract
62 completion award amount shall be determined based on the number of hours of education
63 and training required for the successful completion of the apprenticeship under such
64 apprenticeship program but shall not exceed \$10,000.00 per apprentice.

65 (e) Each employer sponsor shall only be eligible to enter into contracts under this article
66 for up to five apprentices per year.

67 (f) An apprenticeship sponsor may assist with the application for and completion of an
68 apprenticeship contract authorized by this article.

69 20-4-152.

70 (a) The board, in coordination with the Office of Workforce Development, shall create
71 annually and publish on its website a list of high-demand jobs state wide for purposes of
72 the High-demand Career Initiatives Program.

73 (b) The Office of Workforce Development shall publish and maintain criteria for the
74 selection of high-demand jobs eligible for the High-demand Career Initiatives Program.

75 20-4-153.

76 (a) The Office of Workforce Development shall annually report on its website the
77 following information:

78 (1) The total amount of compensation awarded under this article;

79 (2) The amount of compensation awarded in each field of high-demand jobs;

80 (3) The total number of contracts entered into and the number of contracts completed;

81 (4) The total number of contracts entered per eligible occupation and the number of those
82 completed;

83 (5) The total amount awarded overall with respect to each eligible occupation;

84 (6) The total number of apprentices who attended an institution of the Technical College
85 System of Georgia during the course of his or her apprenticeship program; and

86 (7) The total number of apprentices who did not attend an institution of the Technical
87 College System of Georgia during the course of his or her apprenticeship program.

88 (b) Each apprenticeship sponsor shall fully cooperate in providing statistical information
89 requested by the board or, at the board's discretion, be excluded from participating in the
90 High-demand Career Initiatives Program.

91 20-4-154.

92 The board shall adopt rules and regulations establishing a staff review and application
93 approval process, application scoring criteria, the minimum score necessary for approval

94 of a contract, the terms of agreement between an employer sponsor and the board, and any
95 other rules deemed necessary for the implementation and administration of this article.

96 20-4-155.

97 To assist in carrying out this article, the State Board of the Technical College System of
98 Georgia is authorized to accept grants of money, materials, services, or property of any
99 kind from a federal agency, private agency, corporation, or individual.

100 20-4-156.

101 This article shall stand repealed on July 1, 2027."

102 **SECTION 2.**

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