

Senate Bill 399

By: Senators Echols of the 49th, Albers of the 56th, Walker III of the 20th, Esteves of the 6th, Hickman of the 4th 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 encourage and state expectations for the
3 Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, units of the University System of
4 Georgia, and local boards of education to enter into and amend existing agreements with the
5 State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia and units of the Technical College
6 System of Georgia for awarding postsecondary course credits that are transferable between
7 the university system and the technical college system and between units thereof; to provide
8 for reports; to provide for certification of certain courses as approved prerequisites for certain
9 degree programs of the university system and the technical college system; to provide for
10 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

12 **SECTION 1.**

13 Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to vocational,
14 technical, and adult education, is amended by revising paragraph (3) of Code Section
15 20-4-11, relating to powers of board, as follows:

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16 "(3) Select and employ a commissioner of the Technical College System of Georgia and
17 fix his compensation, duties, and responsibilities consistent with the provisions of this
18 article. The commissioner shall:

19 (A) Exercise the overall supervision and direction of the Technical College System of
20 Georgia and shall serve at the pleasure of the State Board of the Technical College
21 System of Georgia. The State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia may
22 assign and delegate to the commissioner such responsibilities, powers, and duties as the
23 State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia may deem proper and
24 appropriate, including the authority to execute on behalf of the State Board of the
25 Technical College System of Georgia legal documents and other filings; ~~and~~

26 (B) Be responsible for implementing the policies of the State Board of the Technical
27 College System of Georgia and for the day-to-day operations of the Technical College
28 System of Georgia. The commissioner shall develop job descriptions for the necessary
29 administrative, programmatic, liaison, and clerical personnel and shall, at his discretion,
30 hire staff necessary for the operation of the Technical College System of Georgia; and

31 (C)(i) In collaboration with the chancellor of the University System of Georgia,
32 provide a report of at least the following:

33 (I) A list of the courses that have been approved by the Board of Regents of the
34 University System of Georgia and the State Board of the Technical College System
35 of Georgia to be transferable between units of the university system and the
36 technical college system;

37 (II) Of the courses listed as provided for in subdivision (I) of this division, identify
38 the university system baccalaureate degree program or programs for which each
39 such course has been approved by the Board of Regents of the University System
40 of Georgia to be a degree prerequisite;

41 (III) Of the courses listed as provided for in subdivision (I) of this division, identify
42 the technical college system degree program or programs for which each such

43 course has been approved by the State Board of the Technical College System of
44 Georgia to be degree prerequisites;

45 (IV) A summary of efforts undertaken by the technical college system in
46 collaboration with the university system to reduce barriers to degree completion by
47 students who have earned course credits in the university system, the technical
48 college system, or both;

49 (V) A summary of efforts undertaken to develop plans and procedures for reverse
50 transfers. As used in this subdivision, the term ‘reverse transfer’ means the process
51 of transferring the credits a student has earned from a four-year institution to any
52 unit of the technical college system from which a student transferred in order to
53 award a degree to such student from the technical college system;

54 (VI) A summary of the efforts undertaken on behalf of the technical college system
55 in collaboration with the university system to comply with the requirements of
56 subsection (b) of Code Section 20-4-20; and

57 (VII) A summary of efforts undertaken to align transferable courses and degree
58 completion to the High-demand Career List developed and approved by the State
59 Workforce Development Board.

60 (ii) The report required pursuant to division (i) of this subparagraph shall be
61 submitted in writing by December 1 of each even-numbered year by the
62 commissioner to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House of
63 Representatives, and the respective chairs of the House Committee on Higher
64 Education, the House Committee on Education, the Senate Education and Youth
65 Committee, and the Senate Higher Education Committee.”

66 **SECTION 2.**

67 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (c) of Code Section 20-4-14, relating
68 to Technical College System of Georgia established, powers and duties, as follows:

69 "(c) The Technical College System of Georgia shall be empowered to:

70 (1)(A) Approve ~~occupational~~ programs below the baccalaureate level; provided,
71 however, that any courses to be transferable to units of the University System of
72 Georgia shall be approved by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia
73 in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of Code Section 20-4-20.

74 (B) Certify prior to the start of each semester all courses that have been approved by
75 the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia to be transferable to units of
76 the university system.

77 (C) Of the courses certified as provided for in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph,
78 identify the university system baccalaureate degree program or programs for which
79 each such course has been approved by the Board of Regents of the University System
80 of Georgia to be a degree prerequisite;

81 (2) Receive and hold title to property, equipment, money, and materials;

82 (3) Operate instructional services projects, also known as student live work projects, in
83 those occupational areas which require specific skills or competency mastery that can
84 best be obtained or demonstrated in a laboratory environment with clients, real items, or
85 projects, including, but not limited to, carpentry, child care, aviation, welding, and
86 automotive repair, and, in connection with such projects:

87 (A) Receive, retain, and utilize donations, fees, and moneys generated as a result of the
88 sale of such services or projects;

89 (B) Retain any unexpended student live work funds from year to year;

90 (C) Expend retained student live work funds for any student live work project or for
91 the benefit of instructional programs at the technical institute; and

92 (D) Acquire, improve, and sell real or personal property in connection with student live
93 work projects, provided that all acquisitions and sales of real property in connection
94 with student live work projects shall be approved by the state board;

- 95 (4) Solicit and receive funds from the general public, corporate underwriters, and
96 foundations;
- 97 (5) Contract with other state, federal, or local public or private schools and other entities,
98 individuals, or other legal entities for the provision of programmatic or administrative
99 services or activities the system deems necessary; and
- 100 (6) Administer and supervise programs in accordance with standards, rules, regulations,
101 and policies of the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia."

102 **SECTION 3.**

103 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 20-4-20, relating to authority of
104 Board of Regents of University System of Georgia unabridged, as follows:

105 "20-4-20.

106 (a) Nothing in this article shall abridge the authority of the Board of Regents of the
107 University System of Georgia to establish or operate colleges or of local boards of
108 education to operate schools.

109 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of subsection (a) of this Code section to the contrary:

110 (1) The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and local boards of
111 education are encouraged and expected:

112 (A) To work continuously with the State Board of the Technical College System of
113 Georgia to develop and implement policies, programs, and practices that promote and
114 advance the objectives of serving student needs, avoiding duplication of mission, using
115 state resources efficiently, and expanding opportunities for postsecondary degree
116 attainment in Georgia; and

117 (B) Consistent with the objectives stated in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, to enter
118 into and amend existing agreements with the Technical College System of Georgia for
119 awarding postsecondary course credits that are transferable between units of the
120 university system and the technical college system;

121 (2) The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and the State Board of the
122 Technical College System of Georgia are encouraged and expected to promote and allow
123 units of the university system and the technical college system to enter into and amend
124 existing agreements:

125 (A) For awarding postsecondary course credits that are transferable between such units
126 of the university system and the technical college system; and

127 (B) That are consistent with the objectives stated in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1)
128 of this subsection."

129 **SECTION 4.**

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