

Senate Bill 497

By: Senators Hickman of the 4th, Albers of the 56th, Beach of the 21st, Esteves of the 6th and Halpern of the 39th

**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 redesignate the High-demand Career  
3 Initiatives Program as the High Demand Apprenticeship Program; to reduce contract award  
4 amounts from \$10,000.00 to \$5,000.00 per apprentice; to increase the cap on allowable  
5 apprentices from five to ten; to authorize certain expenditures by the Office of Workforce  
6 Development; to provide for the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia to  
7 establish the Public Service Apprenticeship Program to promote the creation and expansion  
8 of registered apprenticeship programs in this state; to provide the purpose of such program;  
9 to authorize the board to enter into contracts with public service sponsors for the successful  
10 completion of the education, training, and other requirements of apprentices in Georgia; to  
11 provide application requirements and procedures; to authorize contract completion awards;  
12 to require a report; to authorize the acceptance of grants and other funds; to provide for  
13 definitions; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for a repealer; to amend Code  
14 Section 20-2-161.4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to accessing HOPE  
15 scholarship funds for dual enrolled students and termination, so as to make a conforming  
16 change; to amend Code Section 50-36-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating  
17 to verification requirements, procedures, and conditions, exceptions, regulations, and  
18 criminal and other penalties for violations, so as to revise the definition of the term "public

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19 benefit" to include apprenticeships; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws;  
20 and for other purposes.

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

22 **PART I**  
23 **SECTION 1-1.**

24 Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to vocational,  
25 technical, and adult education, is amended by revising Code Section 20-4-151, relating to  
26 purpose of High-demand Career Initiatives Program, employer partnerships, required  
27 information, contracts, awards, and limitations, as follows:

28 "20-4-151.

29 (a) Subject to appropriations of funds by the General Assembly for this purpose, the board,  
30 in coordination with the Department of Labor, the Department of Economic Development,  
31 the Department of Education, and the Office of Planning and Budget, shall establish and  
32 administer a program through the Office of Workforce Development to be called the  
33 ~~High-demand Career Initiatives~~ High Demand Apprenticeship Program. The purpose of  
34 the ~~program~~ High Demand Apprenticeship Program is to incentivize apprenticeship  
35 sponsors to establish new or grow existing registered apprenticeship programs in Georgia  
36 in order to support the growth of apprenticeship programs and expand high-quality  
37 ~~work-based~~ work based learning experiences in high-demand fields and careers for persons  
38 in Georgia.

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

43 (c) The board shall provide upon request and on the Technical College System of  
44 Georgia's public website information about the program High Demand Apprenticeship  
45 Program, the application, application instructions, and the application period established  
46 each year for contracts for services available under the such program.

47 (d) Upon successful completion of the requirements of a contract under this article, the  
48 board shall provide a contract completion award to the employer sponsor. The contract  
49 completion award amount shall be determined based on the number of hours of education  
50 and training required for the successful completion of the apprenticeship under such  
51 apprenticeship program but shall not exceed:

52 (1) \$10,000.00 per apprentice for contracts entered into before July 1, 2024; and

53 (2) \$5,000.00 per apprentice for contracts entered into on or after July 1, 2024.

54 (e) Each employer sponsor shall only be eligible to enter into contracts under this article  
55 for up to:

56 (1) Five ~~five~~ apprentices per year through the end of Fiscal Year 2024; and

57 (2) Ten apprentices per year beginning with the Fiscal Year 2025 and continuing each  
58 fiscal year thereafter.

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

61 (g) Beginning July 1, 2024, and continuing thereafter, the Office of Workforce  
62 Development shall be authorized to:

63 (1) Provide initial funding for up to \$2,500.00 per apprentice of the amount provided for  
64 in paragraph (2) of subsection (d) of this Code section; and

65 (2) Provide funding to award employer sponsors up to \$2,500.00 per apprentice 12  
66 months after the start of his or her apprenticeship."

67 **SECTION 1-2.**

68 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 20-4-152, relating to annual  
69 publication of high-demand jobs, as follows:

70 "20-4-152.

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

74 (b) The Office of Workforce Development shall publish and maintain criteria for the  
75 selection of high-demand jobs eligible for the ~~High-demand Career Initiatives~~ High  
76 Demand Apprenticeship Program."

77 **SECTION 1-3.**

78 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 20-4-153, relating  
79 to annual reporting and cooperation from apprenticeship sponsor, as follows:

80 "(b) Each apprenticeship sponsor shall fully cooperate in providing statistical information  
81 requested by the board or, at the board's discretion, be excluded from participating in the  
82 ~~High-demand Career Initiatives~~ High Demand Apprenticeship Program."

83 **SECTION 1-4.**

84 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 20-4-154, relating to rules and  
85 regulations, as follows:

86 "20-4-154.

87 The board shall adopt rules and regulations deemed necessary for the implementation and  
88 administration of this article, which shall include, but shall not be limited to, rules and  
89 regulations for:

90 (1) Establishing ~~establishing~~ a staff review and application approval process;

- 91 (2) Application application scoring criteria that shall include provisions that give priority  
 92 to apprenticeship programs that hire and train apprentices who are:  
 93 (A) Between 15 and 21 years of age; or  
 94 (B) Enrolled in an adult education program and engaged in obtaining a high school  
 95 diploma;;  
 96 (3) The the minimum score necessary for approval of a contract; and  
 97 (4) The the terms of agreement between an employer sponsor and the board, and any  
 98 other rules deemed necessary for the implementation and administration of this article."

99 **PART II**

100 **SECTION 2-1.**

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

103 "ARTICLE 8

104 20-4-160.

105 As used in this article, the term:

- 106 (1) 'Apprentice' means a person who is at least 15 years of age, except where a higher  
 107 minimum age is required by law, who is employed in an eligible apprenticeable  
 108 occupation, and is registered in Georgia with the United States Department of Labor  
 109 Office of Apprenticeship.  
 110 (2) 'Apprenticeable occupation' means an occupation approved for apprenticeship by the  
 111 United States Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship.  
 112 (3) 'Apprenticeship program' means a program registered with the United States  
 113 Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship that includes terms and conditions for the

114 qualification, recruitment, selection, employment, and training of apprentices, including  
115 the requirement for a written apprenticeship agreement.

116 (4) 'Apprenticeship sponsor' means:

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

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

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

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

125 (7) 'Office of Workforce Development' means the Technical College System of Georgia's  
126 Office of Workforce Development.

127 (8) 'Public service sponsor' means a state or local government entity that coordinates  
128 with or is an apprenticeship sponsor and employs and trains an apprentice.

129 20-4-161.

130 (a) Subject to appropriations of funds by the General Assembly for this purpose, the board,  
131 in coordination with the Department of Labor, the Department of Economic Development,  
132 the Department of Education, and the Office of Planning and Budget, shall establish and  
133 administer a program through the Office of Workforce Development to be called the Public  
134 Service Apprenticeship Program. The purpose of the Public Service Apprenticeship  
135 Program is to incentivize apprenticeship sponsors to establish new or grow existing  
136 registered apprenticeship programs in Georgia in order to support the growth of  
137 apprenticeship programs and expand high-quality work based learning experiences in state  
138 and local government fields and careers for persons in Georgia.

139 (b) A public service sponsor may apply to the board for the opportunity to enter into a  
140 contract to perform the requirements of conducting an apprenticeship program for a  
141 specific apprentice. Such contract shall require the public service sponsor's apprentice to  
142 successfully complete an apprenticeship program.

143 (c) The board shall provide upon request and on the Technical College System of  
144 Georgia's public website information about the Public Service Apprenticeship Program, the  
145 application, application instructions, and the application period established each year for  
146 contracts for services available under such program.

147 (d) Upon successful completion of the requirements of a contract under this article, the  
148 board shall provide a contract completion award to the public service sponsor. The  
149 contract completion award amount shall be determined based on the number of hours of  
150 education and training required for the successful completion of the apprenticeship under  
151 such apprenticeship program but shall not exceed \$5,000.00 per apprentice.

152 (e) Each public service sponsor shall only be eligible to enter into contracts under this  
153 article for up to ten apprentices per year.

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

156 20-4-162.

157 (a) The Office of Workforce Development shall annually report on its public website the  
158 following information for the previous year:

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

160 (2) The total number of contracts entered into and the number of contracts completed;

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

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

165 (b) Each apprenticeship sponsor shall fully cooperate in providing statistical information  
166 requested by the board or, at the board's discretion, be excluded from participating in the  
167 Public Service Apprenticeship Program.

168 20-4-163.

169 The board shall adopt rules and regulations deemed necessary for the implementation and  
170 administration of this article, which shall include, but shall not be limited to, rules and  
171 regulations for:

172 (1) Establishing a staff review and application approval process;

173 (2) Application scoring criteria that shall prioritize apprenticeship programs that hire and  
174 train apprentices:

175 (A) Who are enrolled in or have completed a high school career, technical, and  
176 agricultural education (CTAE) public administration pathway program; or

177 (B) In state and local government skilled trade fields;

178 (3) The minimum score necessary for approval of a contract; and

179 (4) The terms of agreement between a public service sponsor and the board.

180 20-4-164.

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

184 20-4-165.

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



186

**PART III**

187

**SECTION 3-1.**

188 Code Section 20-2-161.4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to accessing  
189 HOPE scholarship funds for dual enrolled students and termination, is amended by revising  
190 subparagraph (a)(2)(E) as follows:

191 "(E) The number of students employed in a high-demand field after completing a  
192 focused program of study identified by the State Board of the Technical College System  
193 of Georgia as part of the ~~High-demand Career Initiatives~~ High Demand Apprenticeship  
194 Program provided for in Code Section 20-4-152."

195

**PART IV**

196

**SECTION 4-1.**

197 Code Section 50-36-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to verification  
198 requirements, procedures, and conditions, exceptions, regulations, and criminal and other  
199 penalties for violations, is amended in paragraph (4) of subsection (a) by adding a new  
200 subparagraph to read as follows:

201 "(A.1) Apprenticeships:"

202

**PART V**

203

**SECTION 5-1.**

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