

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

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 Office of Workforce Development to create and publish  
9 a list of high-demand jobs in Georgia; to require a report; to authorize the acceptance of  
10 grants and other funds; to provide for definitions; to provide for rules and regulations; to  
11 provide for a repealer; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
12 purposes.

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

14 **SECTION 1.**

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

S. B. 379

17 "ARTICLE 718 20-4-150.19 As used in this article, the term:20 (1) 'Apprentice' means a person who is at least 15 years of age, except where a higher  
21 minimum age is required by law, who is employed in an eligible apprenticeable  
22 occupation, and is registered in Georgia with the United States Department of Labor  
23 Office of Apprenticeship.24 (2) 'Apprenticeable occupation' means an occupation approved for apprenticeship by the  
25 United States Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship.26 (3) 'Apprenticeship program' means a program registered with the United States  
27 Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship that includes terms and conditions for the  
28 qualification, recruitment, selection, employment, and training of apprentices, including  
29 the requirement for a written apprenticeship agreement.30 (4) 'Apprenticeship sponsor' means:31 (A) Any entity operating an apprenticeship program; or32 (B) Any entity in whose name an apprenticeship program is being operated that is  
33 registered with or approved by the United States Department of Labor Office of  
34 Apprenticeship.35 (5) 'Board' means the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia.36 (6) 'Eligible apprenticeable occupation' means an apprenticeable occupation identified  
37 by the Office of Workforce Development pursuant to Code Section 20-4-152 as a  
38 high-demand job.39 (7) 'Employer sponsor' means an employer that coordinates with or is an apprenticeship  
40 sponsor and employs and trains an apprentice.41 (8) 'Office of Workforce Development' means the Technical College System of Georgia's  
42 Office of Workforce Development.

43 20-4-151.

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

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

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

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

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

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

70 20-4-152.

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

76 20-4-153.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

92 20-4-154.

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

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

97 20-4-155.

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

101 20-4-156.

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

103 **SECTION 2.**

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