

The House Committee on Education offers the following substitute to HB 963:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Part 3 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to educational programs under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to provide for the annual development of a promoted list of industry credentials and state licenses that meet certain high-demand and high-wage criteria; to provide for distribution of the annual promoted list; to provide for annual reporting; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Part 3 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to educational programs under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended by revising Code Section 20-2-159.1, relating to focused programs of study, as follows:

"20-2-159.1.

(a) No later than July 1, 2013, the Department of Education shall develop, and the State Board of Education shall approve, state models and content standards for the following focused programs of study, as defined in Code Section 20-2-326, including, but not limited to:

- (1) Agriculture, food, and natural resources;
- (2) Architecture and construction;
- (3) Arts, audio-video technology, and communications;
- (4) Business, management, and administration;
- (5) Education and training;
- (6) Finance;
- (7) Health science;
- (8) Hospitality and tourism;
- (9) Human services;
- (10) Information technology;

- (11) Law, public safety, and security;
(12) Manufacturing;
(13) Government and public administration;
(14) Marketing, sales, and service;
(15) Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and
(16) Transportation, distribution, and logistics.

Such focused programs of study may be combined around these and other related clusters.

(b)(1) The State Workforce Development Board, in consultation with the Department of Education and the Technical College System of Georgia, shall annually develop a promoted list of industry credentials and state licenses that:

(A) Are linked to an occupation that is in high demand by employers at the local, state, or regional level; and

(B) Lead to an occupation with wages of at least 70 percent of the average annual wage in this state unless the credential is a stackable credential and is required for the next level of occupation, which does meet the wage criterion.

(2) The Department of Education shall annually distribute the promoted list to all middle and high schools in this state. Such distribution may be by electronic means. The annual promoted list shall also be posted on the Department of Education's website.

(3) Each local school system shall annually report the number of students earning an industry credential or state license by type that is on the annual promoted list to the Department of Education. The Department of Education shall annually report the number of students earning an industry credential or state license by type that is on the annual promoted list to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The report shall also be posted on the Department of Education's website."

SECTION 2.

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