

House Bill 1518

By: Representative Lim of the 98th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 8 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 Department of Community Affairs, so as to establish the GeorgiaCorps Grant Program
3 designed to provide qualified individuals with meaningful experiences in child care, elder
4 care, or healthcare through grant-funded projects within this state; to provide for legislative
5 findings and declarations; to provide for definitions; to provide for criteria and compliance;
6 to provide for application and project requirements; to provide for qualified individual
7 requirements; to provide for participation commitment, pre-service training, in-service
8 training, and a postservice interview; to provide for prohibited activities; to provide for
9 program assessment and reporting; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws;
10 and for other purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

12 **SECTION 1.**

13 Chapter 8 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Department
14 of Community Affairs, is amended by adding a new article to read follows:

H. B. 1518

15 "ARTICLE 14

16 50-8-310.

17 The General Assembly finds and declares that funding the GeorgiaCorps Grant Program
18 would return a substantial benefit to the state by promoting voluntary service in child care,
19 elder care, and healthcare in the state without displacing existing workers; fostering and
20 expanding voluntary service in child care, elder care, and healthcare throughout the state;
21 providing recent secondary school graduates with meaningful experience in child care,
22 elder care, and healthcare; and rewarding such acts of volunteerism and service in child
23 care, elder care, and healthcare in the state.

24 50-8-311.

25 As used in this article, the term:

26 (1) 'Child care' means the supervision, care, guidance, or education of another's child
27 while a parent or guardian is temporarily absent or unavailable due to work or another
28 reason.

29 (2) 'Department' means the Department of Community Affairs.

30 (3) 'Elder care' means the care, treatment, or service intended to help older individuals
31 live as comfortably and independently as possible. Such term includes basic
32 transportation, meal delivery or preparation, personal care services, and general medical
33 care that is considered essential for maintaining good health and well-being.

34 (4) 'GeorgiaCorps Grant Program' or 'grant program' means the grant program
35 established by this article to provide qualified individuals with opportunities to serve in
36 child care, elder care, or healthcare in this state.

37 (5) 'Grant recipient' means a nonprofit entity that is the direct recipient of a grant through
38 the GeorgiaCorps Grant Program and that is authorized to provide opportunities through

39 projects in this state for qualified individuals to serve in child care, elder care, or
40 healthcare as provided in this article.

41 (6) 'Healthcare' means any care, treatment, service, or procedure to maintain, diagnose,
42 treat, or provide for another individual's physical or mental health or personal care.

43 (7) 'Project' means an activity that receives funding through a grant recipient under the
44 GeorgiaCorps Grant Program.

45 (8) 'Qualified individual' means an individual who is a Georgia resident; is at least 17,
46 but no more than 25, years of age; and has received a high school diploma or its
47 equivalent.

48 (9) 'Stipend' means an award to qualified individuals for service under the GeorgiaCorps
49 Grant Program.

50 50-8-312.

51 (a) Subject to appropriations, the department shall establish and administer a grant
52 program to be known as the GeorgiaCorps Grant Program which shall serve to provide
53 opportunities, through grant-funded projects in this state, for qualified individuals to serve
54 in child care, elder care, or healthcare.

55 (b) The amount of any grant awarded pursuant to this article shall be determined by the
56 department on a case-by-case review of applications consistent with criteria prescribed by
57 the department which shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

58 (1) Grant moneys shall be used to provide qualified individuals with meaningful direct
59 work experience in child care, elder care, or healthcare, but shall not displace existing
60 workers;

61 (2) Grant moneys shall be used to provide stipends to qualified individuals participating
62 in a project and not for administrative costs or expenses of the project;

63 (3) A grant recipient shall refund to the department any unused grant moneys, with
64 interest at the legal rate, not later than two years after receipt of a grant;

65 (4) No later than six months after receipt of a grant and every six months thereafter, a
66 grant recipient shall report to the department data on the project's performance using
67 standardized measures and performance levels developed by the department. Such
68 reported data shall include, but shall not be limited to, information on applications,
69 grants, qualified individuals, and services, as provided for in subsection (b) of Code
70 Section 50-8-316; and

71 (5) Each grant recipient shall ensure compliance with the provisions of this article and
72 with federal and state law.

73 50-8-313.

74 (a) The department shall develop a grant application form and shall post such form on its
75 internet website.

76 (b) A completed grant application shall demonstrate that such grant will be used to
77 increase the total number of volunteers supported by the applicant and that such applicant
78 has expertise applicable to implementing the proposed project.

79 (c) A completed grant application shall demonstrate that the applicant will provide a
80 qualified individual with:

81 (1) Meaningful service activities in child care, elder care, or healthcare;

82 (2) Training and education to develop new skills and knowledge and opportunities to use
83 such skills and knowledge in real-life situations;

84 (3) Structured time for the qualified individual to think, talk, or write about what such
85 individual experienced during an actual service activity; and

86 (4) Postservice education and career counseling to capitalize on the qualified individual's
87 service experience.

88 (d) A grant recipient shall provide each participating qualified individual with a stipend,
89 a living allowance, and coverage under a health insurance policy.

90 50-8-314.

91 Each qualified individual shall:

92 (1) Commit to participating in no fewer than 1,700 hours during a period of not more
93 than 12 months;

94 (2) Provide child care, elder care, or healthcare services as directed by the grant
95 recipient;

96 (3) Cooperate with the grant recipient and department;

97 (4) Complete pre-service and in-service training; and

98 (5) Complete a postservice interview.

99 50-8-315.

100 While administering or performing services supported by the GeorgiaCorps Grant Program,
101 no grant recipient, staff member of a grant recipient, or participating qualified individual
102 shall engage in the following:

103 (1) Political advocacy, including attempting to influence legislation; engaging in partisan
104 political activities or other activities designed to influence the outcome of an election to
105 any public office; or participating in, or endorsing, events or activities that are likely to
106 include advocacy for or against political parties, political platforms, political candidates,
107 proposed legislation, or elected officials;

108 (2) Religious advocacy, including engaging in religious instruction; conducting worship
109 services; providing instruction as part of a program that includes mandatory religious
110 instruction or worship; constructing or operating facilities devoted to religious instruction
111 or worship; maintaining facilities primarily or inherently devoted to religious instruction
112 or worship; or engaging in any form of religious proselytization;

113 (3) Employment advocacy, including organizing or engaging in protests, petitions,
114 boycotts, or strikes; assisting, promoting, or deterring union organizing; or impairing
115 existing contracts for services or collective bargaining agreements; or

- 116 (4) Such other activities as the department may restrict or prohibit by rule or regulation.
- 117 50-8-316.
- 118 (a) The department shall monitor the overall operation of each GeorgiaCorps Grant
119 Program project and shall conduct regular onsite evaluations of such projects.
- 120 (b) No later than one year after receipt of appropriations and annually thereafter, the
121 department shall provide a written report to the Georgia General Assembly regarding the
122 implementation of the GeorgiaCorps Grant Program. The report shall include, but not be
123 limited to:
- 124 (1) The total number of applications submitted, the total number of grants awarded, and
125 the average dollar amount of grants awarded;
- 126 (2) The total number of participating qualified individuals;
- 127 (3) The total number of service hours provided by qualified individuals; and
- 128 (4) The percentage of service hours categorized by child care, elder care, and healthcare.
- 129 (c) The department shall post the report provided for in subsection (b) of this Code section
130 on its internet website."

131 **SECTION 2.**

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