

Senate Bill 79

By: Senators Jackson of the 2nd, Henson of the 41st, Tate of the 38th and Sims of the 12th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, so as to
2 raise the age of mandatory education from 16 to 17; to revise provisions relating to adult
3 literacy for purposes of conformity; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws;
4 and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, is amended by
8 revising subsection (a) of Code Section 20-2-690.1, relating to mandatory education for
9 children, as follows:

10 "(a) Mandatory attendance in a public school, private school, or home school program shall
11 be required for children between their sixth and ~~sixteenth~~ seventeenth birthdays. Such
12 mandatory attendance shall not be required where the child has successfully completed all
13 requirements for a high school diploma."

14 **SECTION 2.**

15 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (d) of Code Section 20-4-15, relating to
16 the establishment of adult literacy programs, as follows:

17 "(d) Individuals shall be eligible for adult literacy services who comply with other
18 eligibility and attendance requirements as adopted by the state board and who:

19 (1) Are high school graduates or have high school equivalency certificates and who are
20 deficient in one or more areas of competency offered by adult literacy programs;
21 provided, however, that no person shall be eligible for a high school equivalency
22 certificate who has a high school diploma; or

23 (2) Are at least ~~16~~ 17 years of age and are not high school graduates but who are capable
24 of attaining basic literacy skills as determined by policies established by the state board;
25 provided, however, that an individual who is ~~16 or~~ 17 years of age who has not graduated

26 from high school shall present documented evidence that his or her school system has
27 been notified that he or she has withdrawn from school."

28 **SECTION 3.**

29 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 20-4-18, relating to management and
30 control of adult literacy and postsecondary technical education programs and schools, as
31 follows:

32 "20-4-18.

33 Subject to the provisions of Code Section 20-4-20, any other Code section of this article
34 to the contrary notwithstanding, all decisions regarding the delivery of adult literacy and
35 postsecondary technical education programs and services to business, industry, and
36 individuals who are ~~16~~ 17 years of age or older and who have completed or left the public
37 schools, ~~to include~~ including the awarding of high school equivalency certificates, shall be
38 made by the Technical College System of Georgia. Commensurate with this authority, the
39 system shall exercise state level management and operational control over adult literacy
40 education programs, postsecondary technical schools, and adult vocational centers."

41 **SECTION 4.**

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