

Senate Bill 2

By: Senators Tippins of the 37th, Sims of the 12th, Cowser of the 46th, Wilkinson of the 50th, Millar of the 40th and others

AS PASSED SENATE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to competencies and core curriculum in elementary and secondary
3 education, so as to provide that a student who completes certain requirements relating to
4 postsecondary coursework may be awarded a high school diploma; to provide for rules and
5 regulations; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
9 relating to competencies and core curriculum, is amended by adding a new Code section to
10 read as follows:

11 "20-2-149.2.

12 (a) A local board of education may award a high school diploma to a student enrolled in
13 coursework pursuant to Code Section 20-2-159.5 who:

14 (1) Completes rigorous coursework at a postsecondary institution which meets the
15 requirements in paragraph (7) of Code Section 20-3-519;

16 (2) Is 16 years old or older and has completed at least the following state required ninth
17 and tenth grade level high school courses: two English courses, two mathematics courses,
18 two science courses, two social studies courses, and one health and physical education
19 course; and any state required tests associated with any such courses;

20 (3) Receives a score of admission acceptable on the readiness assessment required by the
21 postsecondary institution; and

22 (4) Completes: (i) an associate degree program; (ii) a technical college diploma program
23 and all postsecondary academic education and technical education and training
24 prerequisites for any state, national, or industry occupational certifications or licenses
25 required to work in the field; or (iii) at least two technical college certificate of credit
26 programs in one specific career pathway and all postsecondary academic education and
27 technical education and training prerequisites for any state, national, or industry

28 occupational certifications or licenses required to work in the field as determined by the
29 Technical College System of Georgia.

30 (b) The State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia shall annually identify
31 fields of study in which a critical need or shortage of trained personnel exists in the labor
32 markets in this state and provide such information to the State Board of Education. The
33 State Board of Education shall annually provide such information to local school systems
34 for the purpose of emphasizing areas of critical workforce needs and shortages in the labor
35 markets in our state to high school students to support their career pathway decisions.

36 (c) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the State Board of the Technical
37 College System of Georgia and the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia,
38 shall establish rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Code section.

39 (d) A student who meets the requirements of subsection (a) of this Code section shall be
40 deemed to have met all graduation requirements of the State Board of Education and shall
41 not be subject to any assessments otherwise required for purposes of graduation."

42 **SECTION 2.**

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