



## DEPARTMENT OF AUDITS AND ACCOUNTS

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**Greg S. Griffin**  
STATE AUDITOR  
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January 17, 2020

Honorable Erica Thomas  
State Representative  
512-C Coverdell Legislative Office Building  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note  
House Bill (LC 49 0061)

Dear Representative Thomas:

The bill would increase the mandatory school attendance age from 16 years of age to 17 years of age. It would also increase the minimum age for attending adult literacy programs from 16 years of age to 17 years of age.

Increasing the age of mandatory school attendance as required by the bill would cost the state approximately \$19 million annually, not accounting for Local Five Mill Share offset. According to the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE), 4,644 sixteen-year-olds dropped out of school between the October 2018 FTE count and the October 2019 FTE count. Had these students remained in school for an additional year, the state would provide Quality Basic Education (QBE) funding in the amount of \$4,089 per full-time equivalent student annually. This funding amount includes the QBE base grant plus additional training, experience, and operational costs, but it does not include any reduction required by the Local Five Mill Share offset. The \$19 million cost of the bill is determined by multiplying the number of student dropouts (4,644) by the annual QBE earnings per student (\$4,089).<sup>1</sup> GaDOE indicated that any increase in enrollment that would result from this bill is not expected to be large enough within any of the state's local school systems to necessitate any immediate capital expenditures.

The Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) indicated that the proposed bill would not have a fiscal impact on the adult education program. TCSG reported that in fiscal year 2019 there were 1,542 sixteen-year-old students enrolled in adult education courses of a total 47,905 served. The reduction of a relatively small number of students would not lead to a meaningful reduction in expenditures by the adult education program.

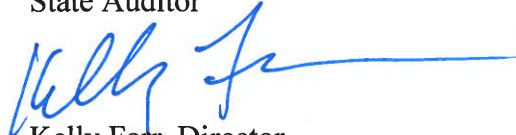
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<sup>1</sup> The QBE funding per student (\$4,089) was calculated using the base grades 9-12 FTE funding. If the students who dropped out were enrolled in programs with higher funding weights (e.g., special education), the actual amount would be higher.

Sincerely,



Greg S. Griffin  
State Auditor



Kelly Farr, Director  
Office of Planning and Budget

GSG/KF/jb