

Resolution 17: House Resolution 275 - Increasing Minimum School Dropout Age

Sponsored by Representatives Glaize of the 67th, McQueen of the 61st, and Dawson of the 65th

House Resolution 275: Supporting an increase in the minimum school dropout age from 16 to 17 years old in the State of Georgia

WHEREAS, a previous Atlanta Regional Commission study projected that by 2020, 60 percent of jobs in Georgia would require post-secondary education, yet only 38 percent of high school sophomores at the time were expected to pursue a degree or certificate; and

WHEREAS, the economic impact of high school dropouts is substantial, with dropouts from the Class of 2010 alone estimated to cost the nation over \$337 billion in lost wages over their lifetimes; and

WHEREAS Elevate USA found that, over the course of their lifetimes, high school dropouts will earn an average of \$375,000 less than high school graduates and roughly \$1,000,000 less than college graduates; and

WHEREAS a 2013 article from the Alliance for Excellent Education estimated that for every dollar invested in increasing graduation rates, there is a return of \$1.45 to \$3.55; and

WHEREAS additional research by Civic Enterprise in 2006 revealed that 74 percent of dropouts later regret their decision as adults; and

WHEREAS state law does not allow students to vote until they age 17.5, and students should not be permitted to make such a consequential decision at age 16; and

WHEREAS, a report from the National Education Association showed that nearly 71 percent of incarcerated individuals lacked a high school diploma and that an additional year of schooling reduces arrests by 11 to 18 percent; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Justice Statistics state as of January 2003 68% of state prison inmates did not receive a high school diploma; and

WHEREAS, research consistently demonstrates that states with a higher school-leaving age have better educational outcomes, higher employment rates, greater economic stability; and

WHEREAS, and additional years of schooling report better health, lower rates of depression, and greater life satisfaction; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor statistics in October 2024, 113,322 of the 606,000 high school dropouts between Oct. 2023 and 2024 were unemployed compared to about 72,000 recent graduates attending college; and

WHEREAS, increasing the minimum dropout age to 17 will better prepare Georgia's workforce, strengthen the state's economy, and provide students with the opportunities necessary for long-term success.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that the members of this body support the increase of the minimum school dropout age in the State of Georgia from 16 to 17 years old.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the press.

By: Representatives Glaize of the 67th, McQueen of the 61st, and Dawson of the 65th