

State of Georgia

**Office of the Lieutenant Governor**

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**Legislation Securing Work Based Learning Opportunities for High School Students Signed into Law**

(ATLANTA)- Today, Gov. Nathan Deal signed House Bill 402 into law, measure that incentivizes employers to hire 16 or 17 year olds in work based learning positions. Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle, along with Rep. Eddie Lumsden (R – Armuchee), State Board of Education Chair Mike Royal, the Georgia Department of Education and the Georgia Department of Insurance, worked together to pass legislation allowing Georgia’s students to pursue work rooted in their educational instruction while simultaneously preparing them to enter today’s workforce.

“I want to thank Gov. Deal for recognizing the great value in encouraging our businesses to employee high school students in jobs that will lead them to life-long, fulfilling careers,” said Lt. Gov. Cagle. “Georgia is on the forefront of education innovation as we continue implement public policy recognizing each child’s individual goals and strengths.”

HB 402 encourages employers to provide work based learning opportunities for high school students by allowing insurance providers to offer a 5% reduction (capped at $2,500) in worker’s compensation premiums. This initiative will foster an environment that provides real-world experience for students to prepare them for future career opportunities.

HB 402 will become law on July 1, 2016.

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