

House Bill 1588

By: Representatives Heard of the 89th, Taylor of the 134th, Hugley of the 133rd, Harbin of the 113th, McBee of the 88th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 elementary and secondary education, so as to provide for the design and implementation of
3 a mentoring program for certain teachers; to provide for definitions, required participation,
4 assignment of mentors, and reduced classroom instruction assignments; to provide for
5 observation of other teachers, stipends for mentors, criteria for mentor selection, records,
6 funds, and a schedule for implementation; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
7 laws; and for other purposes.

8 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and
11 secondary education, is amended by inserting a new Code section to be designated Code
12 Section 20-2-233 to read as follows:

13 "20-2-233.

14 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'new teacher' means a teacher new to Georgia
15 who has less than three years' teaching experience.

16 (b) The State Board of Education shall design and implement a mentoring program for all
17 beginning teachers and all new teachers.

18 (c) The mentoring program shall include without limitation the following elements:

19 (1) Participation of each beginning teacher and each new teacher shall be required for
20 a full school year. Each beginning teacher and each new teacher shall be assigned a
21 mentor. Each beginning teacher and each new teacher shall be assigned to classroom
22 instruction for no more than 90 percent of their time on duty. In addition, each beginning
23 teacher and each new teacher shall be permitted to use at least eight periods of four hours
24 each during the year to observe other teachers or for related professional development;

25 (2) Mentors shall receive a stipend equal to 10 percent of the mentor's current annual
26 salary. Full-time mentors who have no assignment for providing classroom instruction

1 shall be eligible to serve as mentors for no more than two years of each five consecutive
2 school years; otherwise, mentors shall continue classroom instruction for 60 percent to
3 90 percent of the school day;

4 (3) Criteria for selection as a mentor shall include, without limitation, performance
5 ratings among the highest in the school, strong recommendations from principals and
6 peers, three or more consecutive years of employment in a public school, and exemplary
7 teaching ability; and

8 (4) Mentors shall keep adequate records reflecting the number of hours that mentors and
9 beginning or new teachers spend together, the activities during such hours, progress
10 recommendations to the beginning or new teachers, and a review of the strengths and
11 weaknesses of the beginning or new teachers' skills and practices.

12 (d) Local school systems may submit requests to the state board for funds for mentoring
13 programs. State funds may be used for payments to substitute teachers to provide time for
14 mentoring and professional development opportunities for mentors.

15 (e) Subject to appropriation by the General Assembly, the mentoring program developed
16 in accordance with this Code section shall be implemented for low-performing schools at
17 the beginning of the school year commencing in 2003, in other middle and high schools at
18 the beginning of the school year commencing in 2004, and in other elementary schools at
19 the beginning of the school year commencing in 2005."

20 **SECTION 2.**

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