

House Bill 391

By: Representatives Joyce of the 1<sup>st</sup> and Franklin of the 39<sup>th</sup>

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 for the presentation and critique of scientific theories about the  
4 origins of life and living things; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date;  
5 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 The General Assembly finds:

- 9 (1) One of the major purposes of science education is to teach the skills of objective  
10 scientific inquiry;
- 11 (2) Precise and clear definitions are essential for communication and learning to take  
12 place;
- 13 (3) Current science textbooks fail to use precise definitions pertaining to evolutionary  
14 theory and omit any mention of problems not solved by current evolutionary theory; and  
15 (4) The potential for indoctrination exists when information is withheld from students.

16 **SECTION 2.**

17 Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
18 relating to competencies and core curriculum in elementary and secondary education, is  
19 amended by adding at the end of said part a new Code section to be designated Code Section  
20 20-2-148 to read as follows:

21 "20-2-148.

- 22 (a) As part of any elementary or secondary school science curriculum concerning the  
23 origins of life and living things, including the origins of humankind, teachers shall have the  
24 right to present and critique any and all scientific theories about such origins and all facts  
25 thereof.

1 (b) Teachers shall be encouraged to make distinctions between philosophical materialism  
2 and authentic science and to include unanswered questions and unsolved problems in their  
3 presentations of the origins of life and living things.

4 (c) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to require supplementing, restructuring,  
5 restricting, or modifying any science curriculum in use as of July 1, 2000, to include or  
6 endorse the teaching or critique of any particular scientific theory, or to exclude or supplant  
7 the teaching or critique of any scientific theory, nor shall it be construed to deprive any  
8 student of access to any scientific knowledge."

9 **SECTION 3.**

10 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2001.

11 **SECTION 4.**

12 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.