

House Bill 774

By: Representatives Snelling of the 99th and Hudgens of the 24th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To provide for character education for certain state officials and employees; to amend Article
2 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the State
3 Board of Education, so as to provide for such education for members of the State Board of
4 Education; to amend Code Section 28-11-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
5 relating to availability of instructional classes and courses for members of the General
6 Assembly and payment and reimbursement of expenses, so as to provide for such education
7 for members of the General Assembly; to amend Article 2 of Chapter 12 of Title 45 of the
8 Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Governor's powers and duties generally,
9 so as to provide for such education for certain employees of the office of the Governor; to
10 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

12 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

13 Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
14 State Board of Education, is amended by adding a new Code Section 20-2-21 to read as
15 follows:

16 "20-2-21.

17 The State Board of Education shall provide for a program of character education which is
18 designed to foster among its members those adult-appropriate character traits which are
19 included as part of the character curriculum for public school students specified in Code
20 Section 20-2-145. Members shall complete such program at least once biennially.
21 Expenses of such program shall be paid from funds appropriated or otherwise available to
22 the Department of Education."

23 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

24 Code Section 28-11-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to availability of
25 instructional classes and courses for members of the General Assembly and payment and

1 reimbursement of expenses, is amended by striking subsection (a) and inserting in lieu
2 thereof the following:

3 "(a) All members of the General Assembly shall be authorized and encouraged to attend
4 and complete a series of instructional classes or courses relating to the organization and
5 operation of state government in general, and the role and powers of the General Assembly
6 in particular. Such courses or classes shall include, but not be limited to, such general
7 topics as the Georgia Constitution, the role of each branch of state government, the
8 organization of state government, the role of state government in the U.S. federal system,
9 the relationship of state and local government, sources of state and local revenue, and the
10 state budgeting process. Additionally, such courses or classes shall include, but not be
11 limited to, topics specifically related to the General Assembly, such as constitutional and
12 statutory law, bill drafting, the legislative process, committee operations, parliamentary
13 rules of procedure, the appropriation process, legislative customs and traditions, duties and
14 responsibilities of members, ethics and rules of conduct, legislative oversight of the
15 executive branch, local legislation, constituent service, legislative use of computers, the
16 Internet, distance learning, public policy issues on the legislative agenda, and such other
17 matters as deemed necessary and appropriate by the board. Such courses or classes shall
18 also include a program of character education provided by the State Board of Education
19 and paid for by funds appropriated or otherwise available to the Department of Education,
20 which program shall be the same as that provided for appointees serving the office of the
21 Governor pursuant to Code Section 45-12-41."

22 **SECTION 3.**

23 Article 2 of Chapter 12 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
24 Governor's powers and duties generally, is amended by adding a new Code Section 45-12-41
25 to read as follows:

26 "45-12-41.

27 The State Board of Education shall provide a program of character education which is
28 designed to foster among appointees serving the office of the Governor those
29 adult-appropriate character traits which are included as part of the character curriculum for
30 public school students specified in Code Section 20-2-145. Such appointees shall complete
31 such program at least once biennially. Expenses of such program shall be paid from funds
32 appropriated or otherwise available to the Department of Education."

33 **SECTION 4.**

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