

House Bill 775

By: Representatives Snelling of the 99<sup>th</sup>, Hudgens of the 24<sup>th</sup> and Epps of the 131<sup>st</sup>

**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 **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 may 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 **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  
26 reimbursement of expenses, is amended by striking subsection (a) and inserting in lieu

1 thereof the following:

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

21 **SECTION 3.**

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

25 "45-12-41.

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

32 **SECTION 4.**

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