

House Bill 176 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Birdsong of the 123rd, Stallings of the 100th, Bunn of the 74th, Heckstall of the 55th, Smith of the 19th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to local boards of education, so as to provide that each local board of education shall
3 issue high school diplomas to veterans who failed to receive diplomas due to an interruption
4 of their education by service in World War II; to provide that certain honorably discharged
5 veterans who served in World War II between September 16, 1940, and December 31, 1946,
6 and who did not graduate from high school are eligible for a diploma; to provide certain
7 requirements relating to attendance in high school; to provide procedures; to provide for the
8 award of such diplomas; to provide that diplomas may be awarded posthumously; to repeal
9 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to local
13 boards of education, is amended by adding at the end thereof a new Code Section 20-2-69
14 to read as follows:

15 "20-2-69.

16 Each local board of education shall issue high school diplomas to veterans who failed to
17 receive diplomas due to an interruption of their education by service in World War II. The
18 local board of education of the school district where the veteran attended high school shall
19 award the high school diploma to such veteran. A veteran shall make application for a
20 diploma to the appropriate local board of education and furnish proof that such person is
21 a World War II veteran who had his or her education interrupted as a result of service in
22 World War II. Honorably discharged veterans who served in World War II between
23 September 16, 1940, and December 31, 1946, and who did not graduate from high school
24 are eligible for a diploma; provided, however, that attendance in high school ranging from
25 1937-1946 with graduation class years ranging from 1941-1950 is required. Veterans who
26 qualify under this Code section and who have earned a general educational development

1 (GED) diploma are also eligible for a high school diploma. Diplomas may be awarded
2 posthumously. The local board of education is encouraged to present such diplomas to
3 World War II veterans on or near Veterans' Day to bring to the attention of students the
4 importance of such day and the great sacrifices made by World War II veterans."

5 **SECTION 2.**

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