

House Bill 412

By: Representative Teper of the 42<sup>nd</sup>, Post 1

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To provide for legislative findings; to amend Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of  
2 Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and secondary education, so as to provide for rules  
3 and regulations to help protect students against injury from carrying textbooks of excessive  
4 weight; to authorize a curriculum to teach students on methods of lifting safely; to provide  
5 for related matters; 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 that the weight of textbooks carried by students in the public  
9 schools has increased for several reasons, including an increased emphasis on homework. It  
10 appears that many students are routinely exceeding the medically recommended load of 15  
11 percent of the student's weight, and the General Assembly finds that some students may  
12 incur injuries from excessive loads and from carrying loads improperly.

13 **SECTION 2.**

14 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and  
15 secondary education, is amended by inserting a new Code section to be designated Code  
16 Section 20-2-775 to read as follows:

17 "20-2-775.

18 No later than December 1, 2003, the State Board of Education shall adopt rules and  
19 regulations to help protect students against injury from carrying textbooks of excessive  
20 weight. Such rules shall take into consideration the medically recommended maximum  
21 load of 15 percent of a student's body weight. Such rules may limit the weight of  
22 individual textbooks or the weight of textbooks required for homework on any school day.  
23 Such rules may provide for alternatives to carrying textbooks home, such as electronic  
24 media, textbooks that remain at the student's home to be used in conjunction with  
25 textbooks that remain at school, wheeled carts, or other alternatives. The State Board of

1 Education may provide a curriculum for use in health classes or otherwise that instructs  
2 students on the safest methods of carrying loads."

3 **SECTION 3.**

4 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.