

House Bill 459

By: Representatives Buckner of the 82<sup>nd</sup>, Dodson of the 84<sup>th</sup>, Post 1 and Barnes of the 84<sup>th</sup>,  
Post 2

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 elementary and secondary education, so as to provide for a division of school board  
3 mediation; to provide for duties of such division; to provide for requests for mediation,  
4 review of practices and history, letters of recommendations, and rules and regulations; to  
5 provide 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 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and  
9 secondary education, is amended by inserting a new Code section to be designated Code  
10 Section 20-2-21 to read as follows:

11 "20-2-21.

12 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'mediation' shall mean techniques of alternative  
13 dispute resolution that attempt to assist the parties to a dispute to reach a resolution of the  
14 dispute.

15 (b) The State Board of Education shall create a division of school board mediation, which  
16 shall be charged with mediating conflicts among members of local boards of education.  
17 Upon the request of any member of a local board of education or of any member of the  
18 state board, the division will review the practices of a local board of education and the  
19 history of any particular dispute and recommend actions that might be helpful in resolving  
20 a conflict or conflicts, including, but not limited to, continuing education for members of  
21 the local board of education in parliamentary procedure, conflict resolution, and school  
22 finance. The division shall issue a letter stating such recommendations to the local board  
23 of education.

24 (c) The state board is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations for the implementation  
25 of this Code section, including, but not limited to, rules for dismissing frivolous requests."

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**SECTION 2.**

2 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.