

House Bill 320 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Orrock of the 51st, Jamieson of the 22nd, Coleman of the 65th, and Sinkfield of the 50th

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 salary increases for certain school
3 social workers who are certified as Certified School Social Worker Specialists; to provide
4 for leave for preparing documentation required for certification; to provide for
5 reimbursement of the program participation fee; to provide for repayment in certain
6 circumstances; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
7 purposes.

8 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and
11 secondary education, is amended by inserting a new Code section to be designated Code
12 Section 20-2-212.4 to read as follows:

13 "20-2-212.4.

14 (a) As used in this Code section, 'national certification' means certification as a Certified
15 School Social Worker Specialist by the National Association of Social Workers.

16 (b) Any person who:

17 (1) Is currently a school social worker in a Georgia public school and holds a valid
18 Georgia professional service certificate in school social work;

19 (2) Has completed three consecutive years of employment as a school social worker in
20 Georgia public schools;

21 (3) Has not previously received state funds for participating in any certification area in
22 the national certification program; and

23 (4) Has successfully completed the requirements for and has received national
24 certification

25 shall receive not less than a 10 percent increase annually in state salary for each year such
26 person holds national certification. Such increase shall be awarded at the commencement

1 of the school year following such national certification, and each such year thereafter. The
2 10 percent increase shall be computed based on the state salary for such individual for the
3 school year when the increase is first awarded and recomputed each subsequent year based
4 on the individual's state salary for that school year. The increase in state salary provided
5 by this Code section shall be in addition to any other increase for which the person is
6 eligible.

7 (c) A school social worker shall be granted two days of approved paid leave to prepare the
8 documentation required for national certification.

9 (d) The state shall reimburse a school social worker for the national certification program
10 participation fee upon certification if the school social worker is eligible for a salary
11 increase pursuant to subsection (b) of this Code section.

12 (e) A school social worker for whom the State of Georgia pays the participation fee and
13 who does not serve as a social worker in a Georgia public school for at least one year after
14 receiving national certification shall repay the participation fee to the state. Repayment is
15 not required if the school social worker is unable to complete the additional year of school
16 social work due to the death or disability of the school social worker."

17 **SECTION 2.**

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