

Senate Bill 223

By: Senators Lee of the 29th, Harp of the 16th, Zamarripa of the 36th, and Brush of the 24th

AS PASSED SENATE

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT**

1 To amend Code Section 20-2-211 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 annual contracts for teachers, so as to provide that teacher and other professional employee
3 contracts shall be complete in all terms and conditions, including the amount of
4 compensation for the ensuing school year, when presented to the teacher or professional
5 employee of the school system; to provide for limitations on letters of intent and other similar
6 documents; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting
7 laws; and for other purposes.

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

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Code Section 20-2-211 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to annual
11 contracts for teachers, is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting in lieu thereof a
12 new subsection (b) to read as follows:

13 "(b) Any other provisions of this article or any other laws to the contrary notwithstanding,
14 each local governing board shall, by not later than April 15 of the current school year,
15 tender a new contract for the ensuing school year to each teacher and other professional
16 employee certificated by the Professional Standards Commission on the payroll of the local
17 unit of administration at the beginning of the current school year, except those who have
18 resigned or who have been terminated as provided in Part 7 of Article 17 of this chapter,
19 or shall notify in writing each such teacher or other certificated professional employee of
20 the intention of not renewing his or her contract for the ensuing school year. Such
21 contracts when tendered to each teacher or other professional employee shall be complete
22 in all terms and conditions of the contract, including the amount of compensation to be paid
23 to such teacher or other professional employee during the ensuing school year, and shall
24 not contain blanks or leave any terms and conditions of the contract open. A letter of intent
25 or similar document shall not constitute a contract and shall not be construed to require or
26 otherwise legally bind the teacher or other professional employee to return to such school

1 system. Upon request, a written explanation for failure to renew such contract shall be
2 made available to such certificated personnel by the executive officer. When such notice
3 of intended termination has not been given by April 15, the employment of such teacher
4 or other certificated professional employee shall be continued for the ensuing school year
5 unless the teacher or certificated professional employee elects not to accept such
6 employment by notifying the local governing board or executive officer in writing not later
7 than May 1."

8 **SECTION 2.**

9 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
10 without such approval.

11 **SECTION 3.**

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