

ADOPTED

1 Senators Jackson of the 50th, Hooks of the 14th and Smith of the 25th offered the following
2 amendment:

3 Amend SB 203 by inserting on line 2 of page 1 immediately after the words "so as" the
4 following:

5 "to provide for an increase in state salary for certain school speech-language pathologists
6 and audiologists who earn national certification; to provide definitions; to phase-in such
7 salary increase according to length of employment in Georgia public schools; to provide
8 for the amount of such increase; to provide when such increase shall become effective; to
9 provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date contingent upon approval of
10 funding;"

11 By inserting between lines 10 and 11 the following:

"SECTION 1.

12 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and
13 secondary education, is amended by inserting a new Code section to be designated Code
14 Section 20-2-212.4 to read as follows:
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16 '20-2-212.4.

17 (a) As used in this Code section:

18 (1) "National certification" means a Certificate of Clinical Competence from the
19 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in Speech Language Pathology or
20 audiology.

21 (2) "School speech-language pathologist or audiologist" means a person who holds a
22 valid Georgia teaching certificate.

23 (b) Any school speech-language pathologist or audiologist who:

24 (1) Has completed 20 years of employment as a school speech-language pathologist or
25 audiologist in Georgia public schools by the 2003-2004 school year, 15 years of
26 employment as a school speech-language pathologist or audiologist in Georgia public
27 schools by the 2004-2005 school year, or ten years of employment as a school
28 speech-language pathologist or audiologist in Georgia public schools by the 2005-2006
29 school year;

30 (2) Has not previously received state funds for participating in any certification area in
31 the national certification program; and

1 (3) Has successfully completed the requirements for and has received national
2 certification

3 shall receive not less than a 10 percent increase annually in state salary for each year such
4 person holds national certification. Such increase shall be awarded at the commencement
5 of the school year following such national certification and each such year thereafter,
6 provided that such increase shall not be payable for any school year prior to the 2003-2004
7 school year. The 10 percent increase shall be computed based on the state salary for such
8 individual for the school year when the increase is first awarded and recomputed each
9 subsequent year based on the individual's state salary for that school year. The increase
10 in state salary provided by this Code section shall be in addition to any other increase for
11 which the person is eligible.

12 (c) A school speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall be granted two days of
13 approved paid leave to prepare the documentation required for national certification.

14 (d) The state shall reimburse a school speech-language pathologist or audiologist for the
15 national certification program participation fee upon certification if the school
16 speech-language pathologist or audiologist is eligible for a salary increase pursuant to
17 subsection (b) of this Code section.

18 (e) A school speech-language pathologist or audiologist for whom the State of Georgia
19 pays the participation fee and who does not serve as a school speech-language pathologist
20 or audiologist in a Georgia public school for at least one year after receiving national
21 certification shall repay the participation fee to the state. Repayment is not required if the
22 school speech-language pathologist or audiologist is unable to complete the additional year
23 due to the death or disability of the school speech-language pathologist or audiologist.

24 (f) The provisions of this Code section shall become effective upon the approval of
25 funding of such increase and related expenditures by the General Assembly."

26 By renumbering Sections 1 through 8 as Sections 2 through 9, respectively.

27 By striking from lines 12 and 13 of page 1 the words and symbols "Chapter 2 of Title 20 of
28 the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and secondary education, is"
29 and inserting in lieu thereof the words "Said chapter is further".