

House Bill 1448

By: Representatives Heckstall of the 48th, Post 3, Holmes of the 48th, Post 1, Sinkfield of the 50th, Ashe of the 42nd, Post 2, Brooks of the 47th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to competencies and core curriculum, so as to enact the "Safe Kids Act";
3 to provide that the State Board of Education shall develop a comprehensive child abduction
4 education program; to provide for the convening of the Child Abduction and Prevention
5 Education Task Force; to provide for implementation of a course of study in child abduction
6 and prevention by local boards of education; to provide for related matters; to repeal
7 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
11 relating to competencies and core curriculum, is amended by inserting at the end thereof a
12 new Code Section 20-2-149 to read as follows:

13 "20-2-149.

14 (a) This Code section shall be known and may be cited as the "Safe Kids Act."

15 (b) The purpose of this Code section is to help prevent child abduction by providing
16 appropriate educational and instructional programs on personal safety for children in this
17 state that is positive, consistent, comprehensive, and effective.

18 (c) The State Board of Education shall develop a comprehensive child abduction education
19 program or curriculum, to be known as "Safe Kids," to educate children in grades
20 kindergarten through eight in this state on the appropriate behavior to deter abduction. In
21 furtherance of the development of the Safe Kids program or curriculum, the State Board
22 of Education shall convene a group to be known as the Child Abduction and Prevention
23 Education Task Force, consisting of representatives from the state's law enforcement
24 agencies, the Department of Juvenile Justice, victim's advocacy group representatives,
25 victim's parents, and others familiar with the issue of child abduction.

1 (d) The Safe Kids program or curriculum developed by the Child Abduction and
2 Prevention Education Task Force as provided in subsection (c) of this Code section and as
3 approved by the State Board of Education shall be implemented by each local board of
4 education as a course of study for students in grades kindergarten through eight totaling not
5 less than one class hour per year per grade for the purpose of informing the young people
6 of this state of the potential dangers they face and the measures that will help to keep them
7 safe.

8 (e) The Safe Kids program or curriculum to be developed by the State Board of Education
9 in cooperation with the Child Abduction and Prevention Education Task Force pursuant
10 to subsection (c) of this Code section may be ready for implementation not later than July
11 1, 2005. Each local board of education may not later than July 1, 2005, implement such
12 program or curriculum and certify such implementation by letter to the Department of
13 Education."

14

SECTION 2.

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