

Senate Bill 554

By: Senators Moody of the 27th, Brush of the 24th, Collins of the 6th, Unterman of the 45th, Seabaugh of the 28th and others

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 schools, so as to enact the "Spread the Word Program Act"; to
3 provide for local programs for collecting donated books for children who have few books or
4 schools that need additional books; to authorize rules and regulations; to repeal conflicting
5 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 schools, is amended by inserting in Article 4A, relating to community involvement
10 in education, a new Code section to be designated Code Section 20-2-87 to read as follows:
11 "20-2-87.

12 (a) This Code section shall be known and may be cited as the 'Spread the Word Program
13 Act.'

14 (b) Each local board of education shall encourage cooperation with a 'Spread the Word
15 Program' for schools and families in its school district. The purpose of the program is to
16 provide books to elementary school children in kindergarten and grades one through five.
17 Under the program, schools may collect books from children and families who have extra
18 books at home, and these books may then be donated for distribution to children who have
19 few books at home or schools that need additional books. Schools may conduct book drives
20 to collect books and review the donated books to ensure that they are age-appropriate and
21 in satisfactory condition.

22 (c) The State Board of Education is authorized to develop rules and regulations governing
23 the operation of this program, including but not limited to the criteria for choosing
24 recipients for the donated books."

1 **SECTION 2.**

2 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.