

House Bill 1723

By: Representatives Hill of the 147<sup>th</sup>, Hill of the 81<sup>st</sup>, Bridges of the 7<sup>th</sup>, Reece of the 11<sup>th</sup>,  
Snow of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 education, so as to require the board of education of each county  
3 school system, independent school system, and consolidated school system to develop and  
4 implement a program for the prevention of child abuse, child neglect, and child abduction;  
5 to provide for a statement of intent; to provide for participation by parents, guardians,  
6 teachers, law enforcement officers and agencies, the Department of Human Resources,  
7 licensed day care providers, and others in the development and operation of such programs;  
8 to provide for the contents of such programs; to provide for notices to parents; to provide that  
9 parents may refuse to allow their child to participate in the program; to repeal conflicting  
10 laws; and for other purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

12 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

13 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and  
14 secondary education, is amended by adding at the end thereof a new Article 32 to read as  
15 follows:

16 style="text-align:center">"ARTICLE 32

17 20-2-2090.

18 The General Assembly recognizes that child abuse, child neglect, and child abduction are  
19 threats to the family unit and impose major expenses on society. The General Assembly  
20 declares that there is a need to assist private and public agencies in identifying and  
21 establishing community based educational and service programs for the prevention of child  
22 abuse, child neglect, and child abduction. It is the intent of the General Assembly that an  
23 increase in prevention programs will help reduce the breakdown in families and thus reduce  
24 the need for state intervention and state expense. It is further the intent of the General

1 Assembly that prevention of child abuse, child neglect, and child abduction programs are  
2 partnerships between communities, citizens, and the state.

3 20-2-2091.

4 (a) It shall be the duty of the board of education of each county school system,  
5 independent school system, and consolidated school system, within the resources available  
6 to such school system, to develop and implement a written policy regarding the school  
7 system's role and responsibility relating to the prevention of child abuse, child neglect, and  
8 child abduction and to establish or participate in an established program for the prevention  
9 of child abuse, child neglect, and child abduction.

10 (b) In developing and implementing such program, consideration shall be given to:

11 (1) Parent, teacher, and children's workshops which provide information:

12 (A) In a clear, age-appropriate, and nonthreatening manner and which outlines the  
13 problem and the range of possible solutions;

14 (B) Which is culturally and linguistically appropriate to the population served;

15 (C) Which is appropriate to the geographic area served; and

16 (D) Which is designed to help counteract common stereotypes about victims and  
17 offenders;

18 (2) Training for school age children's parents and school staff which includes:

19 (A) Physical and behavioral indicators of abuse;

20 (B) Crisis counseling techniques;

21 (C) Community resources;

22 (D) Rights and responsibilities regarding reporting;

23 (E) School district procedures to facilitate reporting and apprise supervisors and  
24 administrators of reports;

25 (F) Caring for a child's needs after a report is made or an abduction occurs; and

26 (G) Material and knowledge that provide awareness skills, information,  
27 self-confidence, and support to aid in the prevention of child abuse, child neglect, and  
28 child abduction;

29 (3) Training for licensed day care providers and parents that includes:

30 (A) Positive child guidance techniques;

31 (B) Physical and behavioral indicators of abuse;

32 (C) How to recognize and provide safe, quality day care;

33 (D) Community resources;

34 (E) Rights and responsibilities regarding reporting; and

35 (F) Caring for the abused, neglected, or abducted child; and

36 (4) Training for children that includes:

- 1 (A) The right of every child to live free and the criminal laws concerning child abuse,  
2 child neglect, and child abduction;
- 3 (B) How to disclose incidents of abuse, neglect, or abduction;
- 4 (C) The availability of support resources and how to obtain help;
- 5 (D) Child safety training and age-appropriate self defense techniques; and
- 6 (E) A period for crisis counseling and reporting immediately following the completion  
7 of each child's workshop in a school setting which maximizes the child's privacy and  
8 sense of safety.
- 9 (c) The program for the prevention of child abuse, child neglect, and child abduction  
10 established under this Code section shall be a voluntary program and shall not be a part of  
11 the basic program of education. The parents of each child shall be given notice of the  
12 prevention program and may refuse to allow their child to participate in the program.
- 13 (d) Parents, guardians, teachers, law enforcement officers and agencies, the Department  
14 of Human Resources, licensed day care providers, and others are authorized and  
15 encouraged to participate in the development and operation of programs for the prevention  
16 of child abuse, child neglect, and child abduction established pursuant to this Code section."

17 **SECTION 2.**

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