

House Bill 230

By: Representatives Bruce of the 64th, Maxwell of the 17th, Orrock of the 58th, Benfield of the 85th, Mosby of the 90th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 4A of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to community involvement in education, so as to enact the "Time for Schools Act";
3 to provide for legislative intent; to provide that an employer shall not discharge or penalize
4 a parent for taking reasonable time not to exceed eight hours per year to attend a parent-child
5 conference or school program; to provide that an employer may not discriminate against an
6 employee for taking leave in order to attend a conference or school program; to provide for
7 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Time for Schools Act."

11 **SECTION 2.**

12 The General Assembly finds that research has shown that parental involvement in a child's
13 education is one of the most important factors in determining school success. The General
14 Assembly finds that the strength of Georgia's economy depends on school success and the
15 availability of a well educated workforce. The General Assembly finds that the federal "No
16 Child Left Behind Act" requires schools to engage and expand parental involvement in the
17 schools.

18 **SECTION 3.**

19 Article 4A of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
20 community involvement in education, is amended by inserting at the end thereof a new Code
21 Section 20-2-87 to read as follows:

22 "20-2-87.

23 (a) It is hereby declared to be the public policy of this state that parents, legal guardians,
24 and legal custodians are strongly encouraged to participate in their child's education,

1 including attendance at parent-teacher conferences and programs intended for parental
2 participation and to provide needed support to the school in order to promote the child's
3 education.

4 (b) Employers in this state shall not discharge, discipline, or otherwise penalize an
5 employee who is the parent, legal guardian, or custodian of a child or children who, upon
6 reasonable notice to his or her employer, attends a parent teacher conference or program
7 that is part of the curriculum and intended for parental participation, or to provide needed
8 support to the school in order to promote the child's education; provided, however, that
9 such attendance at school functions shall not exceed eight hours per year during work
10 hours. The employer may require validation of such employee's school visit by a teacher
11 or school administrator.

12 (c) Any employer or agent of such employer who violates this Code section shall be liable
13 to the injured employee for all actual damages thereby suffered by the employee and for
14 reasonable attorney's fees incurred by the employee in asserting a successful claim under
15 this Code section."

16 **SECTION 4.**

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