

House Bill 1491

By: Representatives Martin of the 47th and Casas of the 103rd

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 provide for a full-day kindergarten program for
3 a minimum of 170 days per school year; to provide a short title; to change the minimum
4 number of required days in a school year for public elementary and secondary schools to 170
5 days; to change certain provisions relating to the base pay of school food and nutrition
6 personnel for purposes of conformity; to change certain provisions relating to a residential
7 high school program for gifted youth for purposes of conformity; to change the definition of
8 "school year" relating to teacher contracts for purposes of conformity; to provide for related
9 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Flexibility for Excellence in Education
13 Act."

14 **SECTION 2.**

15 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and
16 secondary education, is amended in Code Section 20-2-151, relating to general and career
17 education programs, by striking subparagraph (b)(1)(A) and inserting in lieu thereof the
18 following:

19 "(1)(A) All local school systems shall offer a full-day kindergarten program. For
20 purposes of this subsection, the term 'full-day basis' means a student is provided
21 classroom instruction for a minimum of four and one-half hours daily for a 180 day
22 school year or for the equivalent number of hours for a school year of 170 or more
23 days."

SECTION 4.

Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 20-2-187, relating to state-wide school lunch program, instruction in nutrition, hygiene, etiquette, and social graces, and school food and nutrition, by striking paragraph (2) of subsection (c) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"(2) The base payment shall be calculated on the basis of an annual number of hours (190 days multiplied by eight hours based on a 180 day school year, or an equivalent thereof) for a full-time equivalent school lunch position, multiplied by an amount not less than \$161.00 per month for 12 months. Future annual increases in the base payment shall reflect the same percentage increase provided by the state for other state funded positions. The state board shall annually establish a state performance standard and shall determine the number of full-time equivalent school lunch positions needed to plan, prepare, and serve meals based on the state performance standard and the average daily number of student lunches served during the preceding school year."

SECTION 5.

Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 20-2-306, relating to honors program and residential high school program, by striking subsection (b) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"(b) The State Board of Education is authorized to inaugurate and operate a residential high school program for highly gifted and talented youth of this state. This residential high school program shall consist only of students in the eleventh and twelfth grades. Enrollment shall be by student application and on a voluntary basis; provided, however, that the parent or legal guardian of each student must have signed an agreement authorizing enrollment in this program. This program shall be operated during the normal school year for a minimum of 170 ~~180~~ days, in cooperation with one or more of the state universities or colleges from funds provided by the General Assembly. The state board is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia concerning the operation and sharing of costs of this program. The state board shall prescribe policy, regulations, standards, and criteria as needed for the effective operation of this program."

SECTION 6.

Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 20-2-942, relating to procedure for nonrenewal after acceptance by teacher of school year contract for fourth consecutive school year, procedure for nonrenewal by another local board of education, professional certificated

1 personnel, rights of school administrators, and tenure, by striking paragraph (2) of subsection
2 (a) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:
3 "(2) 'School year' means a period of at least 170 ~~180~~ school days beginning in or about
4 September and ending in or about June."

5 **SECTION 7.**

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