

House Bill 1239 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Setzler of the 35<sup>th</sup>, Keen of the 179<sup>th</sup>, Thomas of the 55<sup>th</sup>, Maxwell of the 17<sup>th</sup>, May of the 111<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

To amend Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to competencies and core curriculum for elementary and secondary students under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to provide for a minimum course of study in criminal law in Georgia established by the State Board of Education; to provide legislative findings; to provide for a manual; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for time frames for implementation; to provide for construction; to provide for an election by a parent or guardian not to participate; to provide for immunity; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to competencies and core curriculum for elementary and secondary students under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended by adding at the end thereof a new Code section to read as follows:

"20-2-148.

(a) The General Assembly finds that our youth are the future of our state and that it is in the best interests of the youth and of society as a whole to discourage, to the greatest extent possible, criminal behavior of youth. The General Assembly further finds that it would be beneficial to educate the youth of this state on the repercussions of engaging in behavior that can be deemed criminal and the devastating impact it can have on the life of the individual, on the individual's family, and on society as a whole.

(b) The State Board of Education shall prescribe a minimum course of study which shall include the criminal code in Georgia as it affects minors with an emphasis on sexual offenses, crimes for which a minor can be tried as an adult, crimes included in paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of Code Section 15-11-28, and potential criminal penalties for committing crimes. The State Board of Education shall ensure that any minimum

1 course of study shall be age appropriate for each prescribed grade. The minimum course  
2 of study shall be included as a portion of an appropriate course, as determined by the State  
3 Board of Education at a minimum, in grades eight and nine, and the instruction shall be  
4 delivered in a classroom setting. The minimum course of study shall include an assessment  
5 on the material at the conclusion of the instruction and the results of the assessment shall  
6 be included as a part of the student's grade in the course. The state board shall establish  
7 minimum time requirements for the course of study. Any changes made by the General  
8 Assembly to the criminal code as it affects minors shall be included in a revised course of  
9 study for the following school year.

10 (c) A manual setting out the details of such course of study shall be prepared by or  
11 approved by the State Board of Education in cooperation with the Attorney General, and  
12 such expert advisers as they may choose and shall be made available to parents upon  
13 request.

14 (d) The State Board of Education shall be authorized to promulgate rules and regulations  
15 to implement the requirements of this Code section.

16 (e) The minimum course of study to be prescribed by the State Board of Education  
17 pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section shall be ready for implementation not later  
18 than July 1, 2007. Each local board shall implement either such minimum course of study  
19 or its equivalent not later than December 31, 2007. Any local board of education which  
20 fails to comply with this subsection shall not be eligible to receive any state funding under  
21 this article until such minimum course of study or its equivalent has been implemented.

22 (f) Any parent or legal guardian of a child to whom the course of study set forth in this  
23 Code section is to be taught shall have the right to elect, in writing, that such child not  
24 receive such course of study.

25 (g) No teacher, administrator, or local board of education member shall be held civilly or  
26 criminally liable for instruction provided pursuant to this Code section if such instruction  
27 is provided in accordance with this Code section and with State Board of Education and  
28 local board of education guidelines."

## 29 **SECTION 2.**

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