

Senate Bill 72

By: Senators Williams of the 19th, Weber of the 40th, Rogers of the 21st, Tolleson of the 20th, Staton of the 18th and others

**AS PASSED SENATE**

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT**

1 To amend Code Section 20-2-290 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 organization of schools under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to provide for  
3 legislative findings; to authorize the employment of school administrative managers to  
4 conduct the financial and business affairs of a school; to provide for related matters; to repeal  
5 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 The General Assembly finds that principals are frequently called upon to perform many  
9 administrative functions which limit their time and ability to be thoroughly involved in the  
10 curriculum and instructional aspects of the school. The General Assembly further finds that  
11 it may be in the best interests of schools to disencumber the principal from such time  
12 consuming duties which are unrelated to the direct instruction and achievement of students  
13 by authorizing the employment of school administrative managers to handle the financial and  
14 business operations of the school.

15 **SECTION 2.**

16 Code Section 20-2-290 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to organization  
17 of schools under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended by revising subsection (a)  
18 as follows:

19 **"(a)(1)** The board of education of any local school system is authorized to organize or  
20 reorganize the schools and fix the grade levels to be taught at each school in its  
21 jurisdiction. Local school systems which have organized their schools in such a manner  
22 that facilities house grades six, seven, and eight or grades seven and eight shall qualify  
23 for the middle school program for students in grade levels so housed. A school which  
24 houses grades other than six, seven, or eight shall only be eligible if it has a full-time  
25 principal for grades seven and eight or six, seven, and eight and another full-time

1 principal for grades above or below the middle school grades; provided, however, that  
2 such schools also meet all other provisions of this Code section. Schools with students  
3 in the sixth grade shall not be eligible for the middle school program if the sixth grades  
4 are not housed in middle schools which also contain both grades seven and eight.  
5 Further, two or more adjacent local school systems shall qualify for the middle school  
6 program if through their contractual arrangement they jointly meet the requirements of  
7 this Code section and the criteria and standards prescribed by the state board.

8 (2) The board of education of any local school system shall be authorized to employ  
9 school administrative managers in lieu of or in addition to assistant principals. Such  
10 school administrative managers shall not be required to be certificated by the Professional  
11 Standards Commission but shall have such qualifications as determined by the local  
12 board with a minimum requirement of a bachelor's degree. The duties of school  
13 administrative managers shall be to oversee and manage the financial and business affairs  
14 of the school. The principal shall retain authority over the curriculum and instructional  
15 areas. The school administrative manager shall report directly to the principal. In the  
16 event that a local board considers hiring or utilizing school administrative managers  
17 pursuant to this subsection, it shall receive and give all due consideration to  
18 recommendations by the school council as to whether or not to utilize such position and  
19 as to selection of the manager. Existing employees of the local board shall be eligible  
20 to serve as school administrative managers if they meet other qualifications and  
21 requirements established by the local board for such position. For purposes of earning  
22 funds for such positions, school administrative managers shall be treated in all respects  
23 the same as assistant principals."

### 24 SECTION 3.

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