

Senate Bill 170

By: Senators Smith of the 52nd, Moody of the 56th, Mullis of the 53rd, Butler of the 55th,
Seay of the 34th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 3 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to educational programs under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as
3 to provide that American Sign Language can be used to fulfill the foreign language
4 requirements for a college preparatory diploma for any student; to provide for related
5 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Part 3 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
9 relating to educational programs under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended by
10 revising Code Section 20-1-151.1, relating to American Sign Language as a foreign language
11 for college preparatory curriculum and for Carnegie unit elective credits, as follows:

12 "20-2-151.1.

13 (a) For the purpose of fulfilling the foreign language requirements for a college
14 preparatory curriculum seal of endorsement on a high school diploma, a demonstrated
15 proficiency in American Sign Language shall be accepted as a foreign language for any
16 student ~~if it is determined that a deaf student has a hearing loss which significantly impacts~~
17 ~~upon the student's ability to learn a foreign language. The Individualized Education Plan~~
18 ~~Committee may then determine that American Sign Language can substitute for the foreign~~
19 ~~language requirements for the college preparatory seal of endorsement for a high school~~
20 ~~diploma, and it shall be so accepted~~ by all local boards of education and the State Board
21 of Education. A demonstrated proficiency in American Sign Language shall be accepted
22 as the equivalent of the required two units of a foreign language.

23 (b) For the purpose of earning Carnegie unit curriculum credits at the high school level,
24 American Sign Language may be accepted by the State Board of Education for ~~one unit~~
25 two units of elective credit or for ~~the third unit~~ two units of foreign language credit,

1 pursuant to ~~for any student who is not covered by the provisions of subsection (a) of this~~
2 Code section."

3 **SECTION 2.**

4 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.