

House Bill 654

By: Representatives Manning of the 32nd, Walker of the 107th, Harbin of the 118th,
Stephenson of the 92nd, Coleman of the 97th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 3 of Article 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to student health, so as to enact the "Student Asthma Management Act";
3 to provide for legislative findings; to define the term "asthma management plan"; to provide
4 for a student asthma management plan for each student identified with asthma; to provide for
5 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Student Asthma Management Act."

9 **SECTION 2.**

10 The General Assembly finds that:

- 11 (1) Asthma is the most common chronic disorder in childhood;
- 12 (2) It is estimated that 10 percent of children in Georgia (212,000) have asthma,
13 including 15 percent of public middle school students and 16 percent of public high
14 school students;
- 15 (3) Among Georgia's children with asthma, 84 percent use prescription medicine;
- 16 (4) The Department of Human Resources estimates that there were more than 47,000
17 emergency room visits in 2004 with asthma as the primary diagnosis, and there were
18 more than 11,000 hospitalizations in 2004 with asthma as the primary diagnosis;
- 19 (5) The Department of Human Resources further estimates that Georgia's costs for
20 asthma emergency room charges were approximately \$35 million and asthma
21 hospitalization charges were more than \$107 million; and
- 22 (6) Asthma is responsible for 540,000 days of missed school annually in Georgia, with
23 30 percent of adults (63,000) in homes of children with asthma missing about 390,000
24 days of work or school.

