

House Bill 712

By: Representatives Mangham of the 94th, Williams of the 89th, Watson of the 91st, Mosby of the 90th, Benfield of the 85th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To provide for a nonbinding, advisory referendum for residents of the DeKalb County School
2 System regarding whether school uniforms should be required by the DeKalb County Board
3 of Education for students in kindergarten through ninth grades and subsequently phased in
4 through grade 12; to provide for legislative purposes and findings; to provide for procedures
5 and requirements relating thereto; to provide for a referendum; to provide for submission for
6 preclearance; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
7 purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 (a) It is the purpose of this Act to provide for a nonbinding, advisory referendum for
11 residents of the DeKalb County School System regarding whether school uniforms should
12 be required for students in kindergarten through ninth grades initially, with grades ten
13 through 12 phased in one grade per year thereafter.

14 (b) It is found, determined, and declared that the holding of the nonbinding, advisory
15 referendum provided for in this Act is:

- 16 (1) In all respects for the benefit of the residents of the DeKalb County School System;
17 (2) A public purpose; and
18 (3) An essential governmental function for which public funds may be expended.

19 **SECTION 2.**

20 Unless prohibited by the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, the election
21 superintendent of DeKalb County shall call and conduct a nonbinding, advisory referendum
22 election as provided in this section for the purpose of submitting to the electors of the
23 DeKalb County School System the question of whether school uniforms should be required
24 for students in kindergarten through ninth grades initially and subsequently phased in for
25 grades ten through 12 one grade per year thereafter. The election superintendent shall

1 conduct that election on the date of the November, 2008, state-wide general election, and
2 shall issue the call and conduct that election as provided by general law. The superintendent
3 shall cause the date and purpose of the election to be published once a week for two weeks
4 immediately preceding the date thereof in the official organ of DeKalb County. The ballot
5 shall have written or printed thereon the words:

6 **"NONBINDING ADVISORY REFERENDUM**

7 () YES Should the DeKalb County Board of Education require that students in
8 () NO kindergarten through ninth grades wear school uniforms and subsequently
9 phase in school uniforms through grade 12?"

10 All persons desiring to vote for approval of the question shall vote "Yes," and those persons
11 desiring to vote for rejection of the question shall vote "No." The expense of such election
12 shall be borne by DeKalb County. It shall be the election superintendent's duty to certify the
13 result thereof to the Secretary of State.

14 **SECTION 3.**

15 The Board of Education of Dekalb County shall through its legal counsel cause this Act to
16 be submitted for preclearance under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; and
17 such submission shall be made to the United States Department of Justice or filed with the
18 appropriate court no later than 45 days after the date on which this Act is approved by the
19 Governor or otherwise becomes law without such approval.

20 **SECTION 4.**

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