

House Bill 1300

By: Representatives Carter of the 175th, Dickson of the 6th, Coleman of the 97th, Teilhet of the 40th, and Lindsey of the 54th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-2-168 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 minimum school year and other matters, so as to provide that certain school days which were
3 canceled due to disaster, emergency, act of God, and other occurrences do not have to be
4 made up under certain circumstances; to provide for definitions; 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 Code Section 20-2-168 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the minimum
9 school year and other matters, is amended by revising subsection (c) as follows:

10 "(c)(1) Except as otherwise provided in this Code section, public elementary and
11 secondary schools of this state receiving state aid under this article shall provide each
12 eligible student with access to no less than 180 school days of education each fiscal year.

13 The State Board of Education shall define a school year, which shall be no less than 180
14 days of instruction in accordance with the provisions of this subsection, shall define the
15 length of the school day, and shall provide that all public elementary and secondary
16 schools may be closed for instruction on November 11 of each year as determined by
17 each local board of education to enable students, teachers, and administrators to
18 participate in Veterans Day programs to honor veterans of the armed forces.

19 (2) Any provision of this subsection or this article to the contrary notwithstanding, when
20 the President of the United States proclaims a national emergency or when the Governor
21 proclaims a state of emergency or when, because of emergency, disaster, act of God, civil
22 disturbance, or a shortage of vital and critical material, supplies, or fuel, the continued
23 operation of the public schools according to the definitions of school year, school month,
24 or school day is impractical or impossible, then the state board shall have the power to
25 authorize local boards of education to depart from a strict interpretation of these
26 definitions, and such departure need not be uniform throughout the state.

1 (3) ~~In the event that at the end of the last complete week of the school year four or fewer~~
 2 ~~days remain for completion of the regular 180-day school year, a A local board of~~
 3 education may, without the necessity of authorization from the state board, elect not to
 4 ~~continue school into the following week if the complete, as make-up days, up to four~~
 5 additional days otherwise needed which are the result of days when school was closed
 6 due to emergency, disaster, act of God, civil disturbance, or shortage of vital or critical
 7 material, supplies, or fuel. In any such case, the school year applicable to that local board
 8 of education may terminate, in the discretion of the local board, at the end of the last
 9 school day originally designated by the local board as the end of the school year,
 10 regardless of the day of the week on which the school calendar was scheduled to end of
 11 ~~the last complete week of the school year otherwise provided for in this Code section.~~
 12 The provisions of this paragraph shall not limit the authority of the state board under
 13 paragraph (2) of this subsection.

14 (4) Each fiscal year shall begin on July 1 and end on June 30 of the following year.

15 (5) For purposes of this subsection, the term:

16 (A) 'Disaster' means any happening that causes great harm or damage.

17 (B) 'Emergency' means a sudden generally unexpected occurrence or set of
 18 circumstances demanding immediate action."

19 SECTION 2.

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