

Senate Bill 535

By: Senators Chance of the 16th, Heath of the 31st, Carter of the 13th and Johnson of the 1st

AS PASSED SENATE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to local boards of education, so as to require local school systems to attain and
3 maintain accreditation; to provide for a definition for the term "accreditation"; to provide for
4 the removal of all members of a local board of education of a school system which fails to
5 attain or maintain accreditation; to provide for procedures; to provide for the filling of
6 vacancies; to provide for election of subsequent members; to provide for powers, duties, and
7 authority of the State Board of Education; to provide for applicability of the foregoing with
8 respect to certain local laws and local constitutional amendments; to provide for related
9 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

12 Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to local
13 boards of education, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

14 "20-2-72.

15 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'accreditation' means system-wide accreditation
16 of a local school system or accreditation of every school within a local school system by
17 the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or other accrediting entity approved by
18 the State Board of Education.

19 (b) As a condition of receiving funds under Article 6 of this chapter, the 'Quality Basic
20 Education Act,' a local school system shall attain and maintain accreditation as follows:

21 (1) A school system which has attained accreditation as of July 1, 2008, shall be required
22 to maintain such accreditation; and

23 (2) A school system which has not attained accreditation as of July 1, 2008, shall be
24 required to attain accreditation no later than June 30, 2010.

25 (c) In the event a school system loses its accreditation or fails to attain accreditation in
26 accordance with the time frames established pursuant to subsection (b) of this Code

1 (f) To the extent any provisions of any local law in effect on July 1, 2008, are in
2 contravention to the requirements of this Code section, this Code section shall supersede
3 and control over such provisions of such local law; provided, however, that in the event a
4 local school system is governed by a local constitutional amendment which has been
5 continued in force and effect as a part of the Constitution, such local constitutional
6 amendment shall supersede and control over this Code section to the extent that it is in
7 contravention to the requirements of this Code section."

8 **SECTION 2.**

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