

House Bill 637 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Coleman of the 97th and Benton of the 31st

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-2-281 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 assessment of effectiveness of educational programs under the "Quality Basic Education
3 Act," so as to revise provisions relating to nationally norm-referenced instruments in reading,
4 mathematics, science, and social studies; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
5 laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 20-2-281 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the assessment
9 of effectiveness of educational programs under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is
10 amended by revising subsection (a) as follows:

11 "(a) The State Board of Education shall adopt a student assessment program consisting of
12 instruments, procedures, and policies necessary to implement the program and shall fund
13 all costs of providing and scoring such instruments, subject to appropriation by the General
14 Assembly. ~~Nationally norm-referenced instruments in reading, mathematics, science, and~~
15 ~~social studies shall be administered to students in grades three, five, and eight. Each local~~
16 ~~school system may elect to administer, with state funding, nationally norm-referenced~~
17 ~~instruments in reading, mathematics, science, or social studies in grade three, four, or five~~
18 ~~and in grade six, seven, or eight, subject to available appropriations, with assistance to such~~
19 ~~school systems by the State Board of Education with regard to administration guidance,~~
20 ~~scoring, and reporting of such assessments.~~ The State Board of Education shall review,
21 revise, and upgrade the quality core curriculum. Following the adoption of this revised
22 curriculum, the State Board of Education shall contract for development of
23 criterion-referenced competency tests to measure the quality core curriculum. Such tests
24 in English and language arts, mathematics, and reading shall be administered annually to
25 students in grades one through eight, and such tests in science and social studies shall be
26 administered annually to students in grades three through eight. This action shall be

1 completed according to a schedule established by the State Board of Education. A
2 curriculum-based assessment shall be administered in grade 11 for graduation purposes.
3 Writing assessments shall be administered to students in grades three, five, eight, and 11.
4 The writing assessments shall provide students and their parents with performance outcome
5 measures resulting from the administration of such tests."

6 **SECTION 2.**

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