

Senate Bill 426

By: Senators Buckner of the 44th, Seay of the 34th, Jackson of the 24th, Sims of the 12th, Tate of the 38th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-2-55 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
2 per diem reimbursement, insurance benefits, and expenses of local school board members,  
3 so as to prohibit per diem or salary compensation for certain at-fault board members during  
4 a period of time that the local school system has its accreditation revoked, suspended, or  
5 placed on probation; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal  
6 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Code Section 20-2-55 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the per diem  
10 reimbursement, insurance benefits, and expenses of local school board members, is amended  
11 by revising subsection (a) as follows:

12 "(a)(1) In any local school system for which no local Act is passed, members of the local  
13 board of education shall, when approved by the local board affected, receive a per diem  
14 of \$50.00 for each day of attendance at meetings of the board and while meeting and  
15 traveling within or outside the state as a member of a committee of the board on official  
16 business first authorized by a majority of the board, plus reimbursement for actual  
17 expenses necessarily incurred in connection therewith; provided, however, that in any  
18 independent school system with a full-time equivalent (FTE) program count of less than  
19 4,000 students for which no local Act is passed, members of the local board of education  
20 may, when approved by the affected local board, receive a per diem of not less than  
21 \$50.00 and not more than \$100.00 for each day of attendance at meetings of the board  
22 and while meeting and traveling within or outside the state as a member of a committee  
23 of the board, plus reimbursement for actual expenses. The accounts for such service and  
24 expenses shall be submitted for approval to the local school superintendent. In all school  
25 districts the compensation of members of local boards shall be paid only from the local  
26 tax funds available to local boards for educational purposes.

27 (2) For purposes of this paragraph, the term:

28 (A) 'Accreditation' and 'accrediting agency' means that accreditation and accrediting  
29 agencies recognized and provided for in paragraphs (6) and (6.1) of Code Section  
30 20-3-519.

31 (B) 'School system failing' shall mean a local school system or school that is operating  
32 without accreditation, has its accreditation revoked, suspended, or placed on probation,  
33 or is placed on the level of accreditation immediately preceding loss of accreditation.

34 The provisions of this subsection notwithstanding, during any period of time in which a  
35 school system is failing, any member of the failing school system's local board of  
36 education who is named in a report by an accrediting agency as having violated policies  
37 or standards or caused a violation of policies or standards of the accrediting agency which  
38 action or inaction is a basis for the school system failing, shall not receive, be entitled to,  
39 or earn a per diem reimbursement or salary."

40 **SECTION 2.**

41 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2010.

42 **SECTION 3.**

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