

House Bill 1417

By: Representatives Mangham of the 94th and Collins of the 95th

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 provide for a nonbinding advisory referendum
3 in a school system on whether school uniforms should be required for students in the school
4 system; to provide for procedures and requirements relating thereto; to provide for a
5 referendum; to provide for submission for preclearance; to provide for related matters; to
6 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

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

11 "20-2-72.

12 (a) In the event that two-thirds of the voters in an advisory referendum conducted pursuant
13 to this Code section vote in favor of requiring students in the school system to wear
14 uniforms, the local board of education shall within 60 days of such referendum take official
15 action on such issue by either approving or disapproving the implementation of a
16 mandatory school uniform policy.

17 (b) Upon resolution of the local board of education, the election superintendent of the
18 applicable county or municipality shall call and conduct a nonbinding, advisory referendum
19 election as provided in this Code section for the purpose of submitting to the electors of the
20 school system the question of whether school uniforms should be required for students in
21 the school system. The superintendent shall cause the date and purpose of the election to
22 be published once a week for two weeks immediately preceding the date thereof in the
23 official organ of the county or municipality. The ballot shall have written or printed
24 thereon the words:

"NONBINDING ADVISORY REFERENDUM

25

26 () YES Should the [insert county or municipality] Board of Education require that

27 () NO students in the school system wear school uniforms?"

28 All persons desiring to vote for approval of the question shall vote "Yes," and those persons

29 desiring to vote for rejection of the question shall vote "No." The expense of such election

30 shall be borne by the applicable county or municipality. It shall be the election

31 superintendent's duty to certify the result thereof to the Secretary of State."

32

SECTION 2.

33 The Attorney General of Georgia shall cause this Act to be submitted for preclearance under

34 the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; and such submission shall be made to

35 the United States Department of Justice or filed with the appropriate court no later than 45

36 days after the date on which this Act is approved by the Governor or otherwise becomes law

37 without such approval. If, as of June 30, 2011, implementation of this Act is not permissible

38 under the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, then as of such date, this Act shall be void

39 and shall stand repealed in its entirety.

40

SECTION 3.

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