

Senate Bill 515

By: Senators Smith of the 52nd, Shafer of the 48th, Rogers of the 21st and Butterworth of the 50th

**AS PASSED SENATE**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 6 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to employment under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to enact  
3 the "Educators' Salary Protection Act"; to provide for a short title; to prohibit furloughs of  
4 local school system personnel when local reserve funds are available; to provide for a  
5 definition; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Educators' Salary Protection Act."

9 **SECTION 2.**

10 Part 6 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
11 relating to employment under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended by adding a  
12 new Code section to read as follows:

13 "20-2-212.6.

14 (a) No local board of education shall furlough school system personnel during a fiscal year  
15 if such local board has an unencumbered amount on July 1 of such fiscal year equal to or  
16 greater than 6 percent of that year's total operating budget in a single reserve fund or  
17 reserve account established pursuant to paragraph (5) of subsection (a) of Code Section  
18 20-2-167.

19 (b) In the event that a local board of education is subject to subsection (a) of this Code  
20 section, such local board shall be required to utilize such reserve funds in excess of 6  
21 percent in that fiscal year to participate in the Quality Basic Education Program.

22 (c) As used in this Code section, the term 'unencumbered' shall not include contractually  
23 obligated amounts or amounts reserved for teacher and other school system personnel  
24 salaries.

25 (d) In the event that there is a reduction in the state allotment to a local school system  
26 during a fiscal year, the unencumbered amount for such local school system shall be  
27 recalculated in accordance with subsection (a) of this Code section."

28 **SECTION 3.**

29 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.