

House Bill 198

By: Representatives Williams of the 178th, Roberts of the 154th, Jones of the 46th, Ramsey of the 72nd, Peake of the 137th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 elementary and secondary education, so as to provide for a full-day kindergarten program for
3 a minimum of 810 hours per school year; to require a minimum number of hours of
4 education annually to students based on grade level; to revise certain provisions relating to
5 the base pay of school food and nutrition personnel for purposes of conformity; to require
6 that the residential high school program for gifted youth is operated a minimum number of
7 hours annually; to revise the definition of "school year" relating to teacher contracts for
8 purposes of conformity; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
9 other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and
13 secondary education, is amended in Code Section 20-2-151, relating to general and career
14 education programs, by revising subparagraph (b)(1)(A) as follows:

15 "(1)(A) All local school systems shall offer a full-day kindergarten program. ~~For~~
16 ~~purposes of this subsection, the term 'full-day basis' means in which~~ a student is
17 provided classroom instruction for a minimum of ~~four and one-half~~ 810 hours ~~daily~~
18 annually for a ~~180-day~~ school year."

19 **SECTION 2.**

20 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 20-2-168, relating to distribution of federal
21 funds, combined purchase of supplies and equipment, minimum school year, summer school
22 programs, and year-round operation, by revising paragraph (1) of subsection (c) as follows:

23 "(1) Except as otherwise provided in this Code section, public elementary and secondary
24 schools of this state receiving state aid under this article shall provide each eligible

25 student with access to no less than ~~180 school days~~ the following total number of hours
 26 of education each fiscal year:

27 (A) For grades 1 through 3, 810 hours;

28 (B) For grades 4 and 5, 900 hours; and

29 (C) For grades 6 through 12, 990 hours.

30 ~~The State Board of Education~~ Each local board of education shall define a school year;
 31 ~~which shall be no less than 180 days of instruction~~ in accordance with the provisions of
 32 this subsection; and shall define the length of the school day;. The State Board of
 33 Education ~~and~~ shall provide that all public elementary and secondary schools may be
 34 closed for instruction on November 11 of each year as determined by each local board
 35 of education to enable students, teachers, and administrators to participate in Veterans
 36 Day programs to honor veterans of the armed forces."

37 SECTION 3.

38 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 20-2-187, relating to state-wide school
 39 lunch program, instruction in nutrition, hygiene, etiquette, and social graces, and school food
 40 and nutrition, by amending paragraph (2) of subsection (c) as follows:

41 "(2) The base payment shall be calculated on the basis of ~~an annual number of hours (190~~
 42 ~~days multiplied by eight hours)~~ 1,520 hours in an annual school year for a full-time
 43 equivalent school lunch position, multiplied by an amount not less than \$161.00 per
 44 month for 12 months. Future annual increases in the base payment shall reflect the same
 45 percentage increase provided by the state for other state funded positions. The state
 46 board shall annually establish a state performance standard and shall determine the
 47 number of full-time equivalent school lunch positions needed to plan, prepare, and serve
 48 meals based on the state performance standard and the average daily number of student
 49 lunches served during the preceding school year."

50 SECTION 4.

51 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 20-2-306, relating to honors program and
 52 residential high school program, by revising subsection (b) as follows:

53 "(b) The State Board of Education is authorized to inaugurate and operate a residential
 54 high school program for highly gifted and talented youth of this state. This residential high
 55 school program shall consist only of students in the eleventh and twelfth grades.
 56 Enrollment shall be by student application and on a voluntary basis; provided, however,
 57 that the parent or legal guardian of each student must have signed an agreement authorizing
 58 enrollment in this program. This program shall be operated during the normal school year
 59 for a minimum of ~~180 days~~ 990 total hours, in cooperation with one or more of the state

60 universities or colleges from funds provided by the General Assembly. The state board is
61 authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the Board of Regents of the
62 University System of Georgia concerning the operation and sharing of costs of this
63 program. The state board shall prescribe policy, regulations, standards, and criteria as
64 needed for the effective operation of this program."

65 **SECTION 5.**

66 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 20-2-942, relating to procedure for
67 nonrenewal after acceptance by teacher of school year contract for fourth consecutive school
68 year, procedure for nonrenewal by another local board of education, professional certificated
69 personnel, rights of school administrators, and tenure, by revising paragraph (2) of subsection
70 (a) as follows:

71 "(2) 'School year' means a period ~~of at least 180 school days~~ established pursuant to
72 paragraph (1) of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-168 beginning in or about
73 September and ending in or about June."

74 **SECTION 6.**

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