

House Bill 278

By: Representatives Ramsey of the 72nd, Pruett of the 144th, Cole of the 125th, Millar of the 79th, Lindsey of the 54th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to temporarily waive certain expenditure
3 controls relating to funds earned for direct instructional costs, media center costs, staff and
4 professional development costs, and additional days of instruction; to provide for automatic
5 repeal; 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 Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
9 "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended by revising Code Section 20-2-167, relating to
10 funding for direct instructional, media center, and staff development costs, by adding a new
11 subsection to read as follows:

12 "(f)(1) For school years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 only, the expenditure controls
13 contained in subsection (a) of this Code section relating to direct instructional costs,
14 media center costs, and staff and professional development costs shall be waived and
15 shall not apply to nor be enforceable against a local school system.

16 (2) Each local school system shall report to the Department of Education its budgets and
17 expenditures of the funds received pursuant to this Code section as a part of its report in
18 October for the FTE count and on March 15.

19 (3) No penalty shall be applied to a local school system for failure to comply with
20 expenditure controls set out in subsection (a) of this Code section that are contrary to this
21 subsection, notwithstanding any law to the contrary, as long as such local school system
22 complies with this subsection.

23 (4) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to repeal any other provision of this
24 Code section or this chapter.

25 (5) This subsection shall be automatically repealed on July 1, 2010."

26 **SECTION 2.**

27 Said article is further amended by revising Code Section 20-2-184.1, relating to funding for
 28 additional days of instruction, as follows:

29 "20-2-184.1.

30 (a) The program weights for the kindergarten, kindergarten early intervention, primary,
 31 primary grades early intervention, upper elementary, upper elementary grades early
 32 intervention, middle grades, middle school, and remedial programs and the program
 33 weights for the high school programs authorized pursuant to paragraph (4) of subsection (b)
 34 of Code Section 20-2-151, when multiplied by the base amount, shall reflect sufficient
 35 funds to pay the beginning salaries for instructors needed to provide 20 additional days of
 36 instruction for 10 percent of the full-time equivalent count of the respective program. Such
 37 funds shall be used for addressing the academic needs of low-performing students with
 38 programs including, but not limited to, instructional opportunities for students beyond the
 39 regular school day, Saturday classes, intersession classes, and summer school classes.
 40 Following the midterm adjustment, the state board shall issue allotment sheets for each
 41 local school system. Each local school system shall spend 100 percent of the funds
 42 designated for additional days of instruction for such costs at the system level. Up to 15
 43 percent of funds designated for additional days of instruction may be spent for
 44 transportation costs incurred for transporting students who are attending the additional
 45 classes funded by these designated funds.

46 (b)(1) For school years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 only, the expenditure controls
 47 contained in subsection (a) of this Code section relating to additional days of instruction
 48 shall be waived and shall not apply to nor be enforceable against a local school system.

49 (2) Each local school system shall report to the Department of Education its budgets and
 50 expenditures of the funds received pursuant to this Code section as a part of its report in
 51 October for the FTE count and on March 15.

52 (3) No penalty shall be applied to a local school system for failure to comply with
 53 expenditure controls set out in subsection (a) of this Code section that are contrary to this
 54 subsection, notwithstanding any law to the contrary, as long as such local school system
 55 complies with this subsection.

56 (4) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to repeal any other provision of this
 57 Code section or this chapter.

58 (5) This subsection shall be automatically repealed on July 1, 2010."

59 **SECTION 3.**

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