

Senate Bill 160

By: Senators Chapman of the 3rd, Douglas of the 17th, Staton of the 18th, Harbison of the 15th, Murphy of the 27th and others

AS PASSED SENATE

**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 known as the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to revise provisions relating to
3 instructional activity concerning Veterans Day; to provide that public elementary and
4 secondary schools shall be closed on November 11 of each year in honor of Veterans Day;
5 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, known as the
9 "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended by revising Code Section 20-2-147, relating to
10 instructional activity concerning Veterans Day, as follows:

11 "20-2-147.

12 On a school day ~~on or~~ immediately preceding or as close to the annual observance of
13 Veterans Day as practicable as determined by a school's scheduled curriculum, each
14 elementary and secondary school may provide for instructional activity focusing on the
15 contributions of veterans and the importance of the armed forces of the United States.

16 Public elementary and secondary schools shall be closed on Veterans Day as provided in
17 paragraph (1) of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-168."

18 **SECTION 2.**

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

23 "(c)(1) Except as otherwise provided in this Code section, public elementary and
24 secondary schools of this state receiving state aid under this article shall provide each
25 eligible student with access to no less than 180 school days of education each fiscal year.

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

32 **SECTION 3.**

33 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.