

House Bill 455 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Neal of the 1<sup>st</sup>, Lindsey of the 54<sup>th</sup>, Casas of the 103<sup>rd</sup>, Ashe of the 56<sup>th</sup>, England of the 108<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-2-211 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 annual contracts for certificated personnel in elementary and secondary education, so as to  
3 temporarily extend certain deadlines; to amend Code Section 20-2-205 of the Official Code  
4 of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Georgia Master Teacher Program, so as to remove the  
5 sunset provision for the Georgia Master Teacher Program; to amend Code Section 20-2-212  
6 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to salary schedules for certificated  
7 personnel under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to provide for placement on the  
8 state salary schedule for an educator who has a leadership degree but is not in a leadership  
9 position; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting  
10 laws; and for other purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

12 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

13 Code Section 20-2-211 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to annual  
14 contracts for certificated personnel in elementary and secondary education, is amended by  
15 revising subsection (b) as follows:

16 "(b) Any other provisions of this article or any other laws to the contrary notwithstanding,  
17 each local governing board shall, by not later than April 15 of the current school year,  
18 tender a new contract for the ensuing school year to each teacher and other professional  
19 employee certificated by the Professional Standards Commission on the payroll of the local  
20 unit of administration at the beginning of the current school year, except those who have  
21 resigned or who have been terminated as provided in Part 7 of Article 17 of this chapter,  
22 or shall notify in writing each such teacher or other certificated professional employee of  
23 the intention of not renewing his or her contract for the ensuing school year; provided,  
24 however, that for school year 2009-2010 only, each local governing board shall have until  
25 May 15, 2009, to tender such new contracts or provide such written notice. Such contracts  
26 when tendered to each teacher or other professional employee shall be complete in all

27 terms and conditions of the contract, including the amount of compensation to be paid to  
 28 such teacher or other professional employee during the ensuing school year, and shall not  
 29 contain blanks or leave any terms and conditions of the contract open. A letter of intent or  
 30 similar document shall not constitute a contract and shall not be construed to require or  
 31 otherwise legally bind the teacher or other professional employee to return to such school  
 32 system. Upon request, a written explanation for failure to renew such contract shall be  
 33 made available to such certificated personnel by the executive officer. When such notice  
 34 of intended termination has not been given by April 15, or by May 15, 2009, for school  
 35 year 2009-2010 only, the employment of such teacher or other certificated professional  
 36 employee shall be continued for the ensuing school year unless the teacher or certificated  
 37 professional employee elects not to accept such employment by notifying the local  
 38 governing board or executive officer in writing not later than May 1, or by June 1, 2009,  
 39 for school year 2009-2010 only."

40 **SECTION 1A.**

41 Code Section 20-2-205 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Georgia  
 42 Master Teacher Program, is amended by revising subsection (d) as follows:

43 ~~"(d) This Code section shall be repealed on June 30, 2009."~~

44 **SECTION 1B.**

45 Code Section 20-2-212 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to salary  
 46 schedules for certificated personnel under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended by  
 47 adding to the end of subsection (a) the following:

48 "For purposes of this subsection, an educator's placement on the salary schedule shall not  
 49 be based on a leadership degree, which shall mean a degree earned in conjunction with  
 50 completion of an educator leadership preparation program approved by the Professional  
 51 Standards Commission, if the degree was earned on or after July 1, 2010, unless the  
 52 educator is employed in a leadership position as defined by the State Board of Education,  
 53 but shall be placed on the salary schedule position attributable to the educator but for the  
 54 leadership degree; provided, however, that this shall not apply to an educator who  
 55 possessed a leadership degree prior to July 1, 2010, regardless of whether or not he or she  
 56 is in a leadership position."

57 **SECTION 2.**

58 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
 59 without such approval.

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**SECTION 3.**

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