

Senate Bill 55

By: Senators Unterman of the 45th, Shafer of the 48th, Rogers of the 21st and Balfour of the 9th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 14 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to other educational programs under the "Quality Basic Education Act,"
3 so as to enact the "Georgia Student Extracurricular Partnership Act"; to provide for
4 legislative findings; to provide for definitions; to require a public school to allow any public
5 school student in grades kindergarten through 12 living in the attendance zone of the public
6 school to participate in extracurricular activities at such school; to provide for academic
7 requirements; to provide that such student be subject to all nonacademic rules, regulations,
8 and codes of conduct as would apply to other students; to provide for rules and regulations;
9 to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Georgia Student Extracurricular
13 Partnership Act."

14 **SECTION 2.**

15 The General Assembly finds that extracurricular student activities are an important
16 complement to the academic curriculum and that participation in extracurricular activities
17 contributes to the development of the social and intellectual skills necessary for students to
18 become well-rounded adults. Further, the General Assembly finds that the state has an
19 investment in every child in this state and his or her education, regardless of where that child
20 is being educated.

21 **SECTION 3.**

22 Part 14 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
23 relating to other educational programs under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended
24 by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

25 "20-2-319.3.

26 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

27 (1) 'Nonenrolled public school student' means a public school student in grades
28 kindergarten through 12 who resides within the attendance zone of a school but who is
29 not enrolled in such school.

30 (2) 'Public school' means, without limitation, a traditional public school, a local charter
31 school, as defined in paragraph (7) of Code Section 20-2-2062, a state chartered special
32 school, as defined in paragraph (16) of Code Section 20-2-2062, and a commission
33 charter school, as defined in paragraph (2) of Code Section 20-2-2081.

34 (b) A public school may allow any nonenrolled public school student to participate in any
35 extracurricular activity offered or conducted by such public school in the same manner as
36 any student currently enrolled at such public school. A nonenrolled public school student
37 desiring to participate in an extracurricular activity shall register with the principal of the
38 public school, or his or her designee, such intent to participate in extracurricular activities
39 of the public school in accordance with rules and regulations established by the State Board
40 of Education. The final approval for such participation shall reside in the discretion of the
41 principal in accordance with local board policies, or in accordance with State Board of
42 Education or Georgia Charter Schools Commission policies, for a state chartered special
43 school or a commission charter school, respectively.

44 (c) In order to be eligible to participate in an extracurricular activity pursuant to this Code
45 section, a nonenrolled public school student shall maintain at his or her school of
46 attendance compliance with all academic and nonacademic rules and requirements
47 governing participation in such extracurricular activity at the public school.

48 (d) The State Board of Education shall establish rules and regulations to implement the
49 provisions of this Code section."

50

SECTION 4.

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