

House Bill 230

By: Representatives Setzler of the 35th, Morgan of the 39th, Clark of the 104th, Brooks of the 63rd, and Carter of the 175th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to competencies and core curriculum for elementary and secondary
3 students under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to require annual instruction in
4 certain grades in criminal law in Georgia as it relates to school-aged children; to provide for
5 a minimum course of study established by the State Board of Education; to provide for a
6 manual; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for time frames; to provide for
7 statutory construction; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
8 purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

11 Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
12 relating to competencies and core curriculum for elementary and secondary students under
13 the "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended by adding at the end thereof a new Code
14 section to read as follows:

15 "20-2-150.

16 (a) Each local board of education shall prescribe mandatory instruction in the criminal law
17 of Georgia as it relates to school-aged children for students in grades six through eight and
18 for students in grades eight through ten. Such mandatory instruction shall include the
19 minimum course of study prescribed pursuant to subsection (b) of this Code section or its
20 equivalent, as approved by the State Board of Education. Each local board of education
21 may supplement the exact approach of content areas of such minimum course of study with
22 such curriculum standards as it may deem appropriate.

23 (b) The State Board of Education shall prescribe a minimum course of study which shall
24 include the criminal code in Georgia as it affects minors, an emphasis on sexual offenses
25 and on crimes for which a minor can be charged with a felony and tried as an adult, and
26 potential criminal penalties for committing crimes. A minimum course of study shall be

27 prescribed for students in grades six through eight and for students in grades eight through
28 ten. Each local board of education shall provide instruction in two grade levels annually,
29 one in grades six through eight and one in grades eight through ten, as determined by the
30 local board to be the most appropriate grade levels for the students in its school system.
31 Such grade levels shall be at least two years apart. The minimum course of study for each
32 grade range shall be included as a portion of an appropriate course, as determined by the
33 State Board of Education, and the instruction shall be delivered in a classroom setting. The
34 instruction required under this Code section shall not be delivered in an assembly-type
35 setting. The minimum course of study shall include an assessment on the material at the
36 conclusion of the instruction and the results of the assessment shall be included as a part
37 of the student's grade in the course. The state board shall establish minimum time
38 requirements for the course of study. Any changes made by the General Assembly to the
39 criminal code as it affects minors shall be included in a revised course of study for the
40 following school year.

41 (c) A manual setting out the details of such course of study shall be prepared by or
42 approved by the State Board of Education in cooperation with the Attorney General and
43 such expert advisers as they may choose.

44 (d) The State Board of Education shall be authorized to promulgate rules and regulations
45 to implement the requirements of this Code section.

46 (e) The minimum course of study to be prescribed by the State Board of Education
47 pursuant to subsection (b) of this Code section shall be ready for implementation not later
48 than July 1, 2012. Each local board shall implement either such minimum course of study
49 or its equivalent beginning in school year 2012-2013 and annually thereafter. Any local
50 board of education which fails to comply with this subsection shall not be eligible to
51 receive any state funding under this article until such minimum course of study or its
52 equivalent has been implemented.

53 (f) In no way shall this Code section be construed to require any private school to include
54 any mandated instruction."

55 **SECTION 2.**

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