

Senate Bill 68

By: Senators Albers of the 56th and Rogers of the 21st

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 elementary and secondary education, so as to enact the "Parent Trigger Act"; to provide for  
3 definitions; to provide for petitions from parents for interventions for low-achieving schools;  
4 to provide for notice by the local board to the state board regarding petitions; to provide for  
5 a maximum number of petitions; to provide for limitations on when local boards are not  
6 required to approve petitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and  
7 for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 SECTION 1.

10 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Parent Trigger Act."

11 SECTION 2.

12 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and  
13 secondary education, is amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

14 "ARTICLE 36

15 20-2-2200.

16 As used in this article, the term 'low-achieving school' means a public school that:

17 (1) Fails to meet adequate yearly progress for two or more consecutive years in the  
18 same subject, in accordance with the accountability system established pursuant to  
19 Article 2 of Chapter 14 of this title; or

20 (2) Is a high school that has failed to graduate at least 60 percent of its students within  
21 four years of entering ninth grade for the past three years.

22 20-2-2201.

23 For any low-achieving school which is not currently subject to one or more interventions  
24 by the state board pursuant to Code Section 20-14-41 which, after one full school year, is  
25 subject to corrective action pursuant to paragraph (7) of Section 1116(b) of the federal  
26 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. Sec. 6301 et seq.) and continues to  
27 fail to make adequate yearly progress, and where at least one-half of the parents or legal  
28 guardians of students attending the school, or a combination of at least one-half of the  
29 parents or legal guardians of students attending the school and the elementary or middle  
30 schools that normally matriculate into a middle or high school, as applicable, sign a petition  
31 requesting the local board to implement one or more of the four interventions for turning  
32 around persistently lowest-achieving schools described in Appendix C of the Notice of  
33 Final Priorities, Requirements, Definitions, Selection Criteria for the Race to the Top  
34 program published in Volume 74 of Number 221 of the Federal Register on November 18,  
35 2009, or the federally mandated alternative governance arrangement pursuant to Section  
36 1116(b)(8)(B)(v) of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. Sec.  
37 6301 et seq.), the local board shall implement the option requested by the parents unless,  
38 in a regularly scheduled public hearing, the local board makes a finding in writing stating  
39 the reason it cannot implement the specific recommended option and instead designates in  
40 writing which of the other options described in this Code section it will implement in the  
41 subsequent school year consistent with requirements specified in federal regulations and  
42 guidelines for schools subject to restructuring under Section 1116(b)(8) of the federal  
43 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. Sec. 6301 et seq.) and regulations and  
44 guidelines for the four interventions.

45 20-2-2202.

46 (a) The local board shall notify the state board upon receipt of a petition under Code  
47 Section 20-2-2201 and upon its final disposition of that petition.

48 (b) If the local board indicates in writing that it will implement in the upcoming school  
49 year a different alternative governance arrangement than requested by the parents, the local  
50 board shall notify the state board that the alternative governance option selected has  
51 substantial promise of enabling the school to make adequate yearly progress as defined in  
52 the federally mandated state plan under Section 1111(b)(2) of the federal Elementary and  
53 Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. Sec. 6301 et seq.).

54 20-2-2203.

55 (a) No more than 75 schools shall be subject to a petition authorized by this article.

56 (b) A petition shall be counted toward this limit upon the state board receiving notice from  
57 the local board of its final disposition of the petition.

58 20-2-2204.

59 A local board shall not be required to implement the option requested by the parent petition  
60 if the request is for reasons other than improving academic achievement or student safety."

61 **SECTION 3.**

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