

Senate Bill 208

By: Senators Fort of the 39th, Tate of the 38th, Sims of the 12th and James of the 35th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To enact the "Dropout Deterrent Act"; to provide for a short title; to amend Part 1 of Article
2 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to school
3 attendance in elementary and secondary education, so as to revise the age of mandatory
4 education; to provide for a waiver; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws;
5 and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Dropout Deterrent Act."

9 **SECTION 2.**

10 Part 1 of Article 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
11 relating to school attendance in elementary and secondary education, is amended in Code
12 Section 20-2-690.1, relating to mandatory education for children, by revising subsection (a)
13 as follows:

14 "(a) Mandatory attendance in a public school, private school, or home school program shall
15 be required for children between their sixth and ~~sixteenth birthdays~~ seventeenth birthdays;
16 provided, however, that a parent or guardian may sign a waiver for his or her child to opt
17 out of a traditional public school setting between the ages of 16 and 17 so long as the child
18 enrolls in and attends a community college or technical school, which for purposes of this
19 subsection shall be considered attendance in a public school, until such child reaches the
20 age of 17. Such mandatory attendance shall not be required where the child has
21 successfully completed all requirements for a high school diploma."

22 **SECTION 3.**

23 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.