

House Bill 314 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Dickson of the 6<sup>th</sup>, Neal of the 1<sup>st</sup>, and Coleman of the 97<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Subpart 2 of Part 1 of Article 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of  
2 Georgia Annotated, relating to compulsory attendance for students in elementary and  
3 secondary education, so as to enact "Jessie's Law"; to provide for a definition; to provide that  
4 foster care students are credited as present to attend court proceedings relating to such  
5 students' foster care; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
6 purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 This Act shall be known and may be cited as "Jessie's Law."

10 **SECTION 2.**

11 Subpart 2 of Part 1 of Article 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia  
12 Annotated, relating to compulsory attendance for students in elementary and secondary  
13 education, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

14 "20-2-692.2.

15 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'foster care student' means a student who is in  
16 a foster home or otherwise in the foster care system under the Division of Family and  
17 Children Services of the Department of Human Services.

18 (b) A foster care student who attends court proceedings relating to the student's foster care  
19 shall be credited as present by the school and shall not be counted as an absence, either  
20 excused or unexcused, for any day, portion of a day, or days missed from school."

21 **SECTION 3.**

22 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.