

NOT GERMANE

Senators Millar of the 40th, Albers of the 56th, Tippins of the 37th and Rogers of the 21st offered the following amendment:

1 *Amend the Senate substitute to HB 285 (LC 33 4210S) by inserting after "employees;" on line*
 2 *6 the following:*

3 to amend Article 33 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
 4 relating to the scholarship program for special needs students, so as to provide for
 5 additional notification of the program; to provide for application deadlines; to provide
 6 deadlines for scholarship payments to parents;

7 *By inserting between lines 115 and 116 the following:*

SECTION 4.

9 Article 33 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
 10 scholarship program for special needs students, is amended in Code Section 20-2-2113,
 11 relating to annual notification of options available to parents of special needs children, by
 12 revising subsection (a) as follows:

13 "(a) The resident school system shall annually notify prior to the beginning of each school
 14 year the parent of a student with a disability by letter, by electronic means, or by ~~such~~ other
 15 reasonable means in a timely manner of the options available to the parent under this
 16 article, which shall be in the following form:

17 'Your child may be eligible for a Georgia Special Needs Scholarship to attend a private
 18 school or another public school if your child has an Individualized Education Program
 19 (IEP). Information may be found at www.specialedoptions.com relating to eligibility
 20 requirements.'

21 In addition, the resident school system shall ensure that the parent of a student with a
 22 disability is provided such notice at each Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting."

SECTION 5.

24 Said article is further amended by revising paragraph (5) of subsection (a) of Code Section
 25 20-2-2114, relating to qualifications for the scholarship, as follows:

26 "(5) The parent submits an application for a scholarship to the department no later than the
 27 deadline established by the department; provided, however, that the department shall
 28 provide application deadline opportunities on September 15, December 15, and February
 29 15 of each school year for a student to transfer."

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SECTION 6.

Said article is further amended by revising subsection (e) of Code Section 20-2-2116, relating to the amount of the scholarship and methods of payment, as follows:

"(e) Upon proper documentation received by the department, the department shall make quarterly scholarship payments to the parents of scholarship students ~~on dates established by the department~~ on or before November 1, January 7, April 1, and May 1 for quarterly periods corresponding, respectively, to August 1 through September 30, October 1 through November 30, December 1 through the last day of February, and March 1 through May 31 during each academic year in which the scholarship is in force. As nearly as practical, such quarterly payments shall be equal; provided, however, that this shall not prevent payments from being adjusted due to budgetary midterm adjustments made pursuant to Code Section 20-2-162. The state auditor shall cite as an audit exception any failure by the department to meet any payment deadlines and shall include such audit exceptions on the website established pursuant to Code Section 50-6-32. The initial payment shall be made upon evidence of admission to the participating school, and subsequent payments shall be made on evidence of continued enrollment and attendance at the participating school."

By redesignating Section 4 as Section 7.