

House Bill 874

By: Representatives Reece of the 11th, Purcell of the 159th, Clark of the 104th, Manning of the 32nd, Howard of the 121st, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 2 of Article 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to discipline of students in elementary and secondary education, so as to
3 require annual reporting of bullying incidents; to provide for input into antibullying strategies
4 by school councils; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
5 purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Part 2 of Article 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
9 relating to discipline of students in elementary and secondary education, is amended in Code
10 Section 20-2-740, relating to an annual report by local boards of education regarding
11 disciplinary and placement actions and an annual study by the Department of Education, by
12 revising subsections (a) and (b) as follows:

13 "(a) Each local board of education shall file an annual report, by August 1 of each year,
14 with the Department of Education regarding disciplinary and placement actions taken
15 during the prior school year. Such report shall classify the types of actions into the
16 following categories:

- 17 (1) Actions in which a student was assigned to in-school suspension;
18 (2) Actions in which a student was suspended for a period of ten days or less;
19 (3) Actions in which a student was suspended for a period of more than ten days but not
20 beyond the current school quarter or semester;
21 (4) Actions in which a student was expelled beyond the current school quarter or
22 semester but not permanently expelled;
23 (5) Actions in which a student was permanently expelled;
24 (6) Actions in which a student was placed in an alternative educational setting;
25 (7) Actions in which a student was suspended from riding the bus;
26 (8) Actions in which corporal punishment was administered; ~~and~~

(9) Actions in which a student was removed from class pursuant to subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-738; and

(10) Actions in which a student was disciplined for bullying, as defined by Code Section 20-2-751.4.

(b) For each category of ~~disciplinary or placement action~~ listed in paragraphs (1) through ~~(9)~~(10) of subsection (a) of this Code section, the local board shall provide the following information: the number of students subject to the type of disciplinary or placement action; the age and grade level of such students; such students' race and gender; and the number of students ~~subject to the type of disciplinary action~~ in each category who were eligible for free or reduced price lunches under federal guidelines. For each action listed in paragraph (9) of subsection (a) of this Code section, the local board shall also provide information regarding the decisions of placement review committees and the disciplinary and placement decisions made by principals or their designees. The data required by this Code section shall be reported separately for each school within the local school system and collected and reported in compliance with the requirements of 20 U.S.C. Sections 1232g and 1232h."

SECTION 2.

Said part is further amended in Code Section 20-2-751.4, relating to policies prohibiting bullying, assignment to alternative school, and notice, by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

"(b.1) The local board of education shall require the principal of each school to regularly report incidents of bullying which occurred in such school to the school council. Such reporting shall not include any individually identifying information but shall only be aggregated data relating to the number and type of bullying incidents and the types of discipline imposed. The school council and the school principal shall work together to develop and implement strategies to prevent bullying."

SECTION 3.

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