

Senate Bill 101

By: Senators Stone of the 23rd, Jackson of the 24th, Cowser of the 46th, Davis of the 22nd, Miller of the 49th and others

AS PASSED

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 4 of Article 2 of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to poll officers, so as to provide for the Student Teen Election Participant
3 program; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting
4 laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Part 4 of Article 2 of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
8 relating to poll officers, is amended by revising Code Section 21-2-92, relating to
9 qualification of poll officers and service during municipal election or primary, by adding a
10 new subsection to read as follows:

11 "(c) Each local board of education and election superintendent shall be authorized to
12 develop and implement through a coordinated effort a Student Teen Election Participant
13 (STEP) program. The STEP program shall permit full-time public, private, and home
14 schooled high school students to volunteer to work as poll officers during any primary,
15 special, or general election. In addition to the qualifications set forth in subsection (a) of
16 this Code section, a student participating in the STEP program shall:

17 (1) Be a United States citizen;

18 (2) Have a Georgia driver's license or Georgia state-issued identification card;

19 (3) Have demonstrated age-appropriate academic ability for the previous school year;
20 and

21 (4) Have a history of responsible school and community behavior.

22 A student participating in the STEP program shall at all times while working as a poll
23 officer remain under the supervision of an adult poll officer or manager who is 21 years of
24 age or older. No student shall be permitted to participate in the STEP program without the
25 written authorization of his or her parent or legal guardian and such other documentation
26 as may be required by the local board of education or election superintendent. A student

27 in the STEP program shall work a minimum of four but not more than six hours during a
28 single election day and shall receive age-appropriate training for serving as a poll officer.
29 A student who successfully participates in the STEP program shall be counted as present
30 and given full credit for the school day during which he or she served in the STEP
31 program. No student shall be permitted to be absent from school or participate in the STEP
32 program for more than two school days. The election superintendent and local board of
33 education shall adopt mutually agreed upon rules, regulations, and policies prior to the
34 initiation of a STEP program."

35 **SECTION 2.**

36 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
37 without such approval.

38 **SECTION 3.**

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