

House Bill 65

By: Representatives Caldwell of the 20th, Ramsey of the 72nd, Teasley of the 37th, Turner of the 21st, Dudgeon of the 25th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 elementary and secondary education, so as to require local boards of education and certain
3 charter schools to hold at least two public meetings on the proposed annual operating budget;
4 to require that a summary of the proposed and adopted annual operating budget be posted on
5 the Internet; to require that the detailed annual operating budget be made available upon
6 request; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and
10 secondary education, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

11 "20-2-167.1.

12 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

13 (1) 'Governing body' means the local board of education, governing council, governing
14 board, or other entity by whatever name responsible for creating and implementing the
15 budget of a local education agency.

16 (2) 'Local education agency' means any local school system and any charter school
17 subject to the provisions of Article 31 or 31A of Chapter 2 of this title, except this shall
18 not include college and career academies that are charter schools; conversion charter
19 schools, as defined in Code Section 20-2-2062, whose charter is not held by a nonprofit
20 corporation; or system charter schools, as defined in Code Section 20-2-2062.

21 (b) Each governing body shall hold at least two public meetings for the purpose of
22 providing an opportunity for public input on its proposed annual operating budget before
23 adopting any budget; provided, however, that any other public meeting or hearing held that
24 is related to the budget as required by law shall satisfy all or a portion of such requirement.
25 The governing body of a charter school with a state-wide attendance zone shall conduct
26 one such public meeting in the county in which its primary business office is located and

27 one such public meeting in the metropolitan Atlanta area. The public meetings shall be
28 advertised in a local newspaper of general circulation which shall be the same newspaper
29 in which other legal announcements of the board of education are advertised.

30 (c) A summary of the annual operating budget proposed by the governing board and the
31 annual operating budget adopted by the governing board shall be posted on a publicly
32 available area of such governing body's website. The summary of the annual operating
33 budget adopted by the governing body shall be maintained on such publicly available area
34 of the website until the annual operating budget for the next fiscal year is adopted by the
35 governing body. In the event a governing body elects to post the line item detailed
36 proposed and adopted annual operating budgets on a publicly available area of its website,
37 it shall be deemed in compliance with this subsection.

38 (d) Upon request, each governing body shall provide to any person an electronic copy of
39 the line item detailed adopted annual operating budget in a format suitable for analysis at
40 no cost within three days of such request, and the summary of the budget required by
41 subsection (c) of this Code section shall give notice of such right.

42 (e) The provisions of this Code section shall not be construed to apply to the operating
43 budget or accounting records of a nonprofit corporation itself that operates a charter
44 school."

45 **SECTION 2.**

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