

ADOPTED

Senators Ligon of the 3rd, Heath of the 31st, Mullis of the 53rd, Gooch of the 51st and Millar of the 40th offers the following amendment:

1 *Amend the Senate Committee on Education and Youth substitute to HB 502 (LC 33 6191S)*
 2 *by inserting after "contract;" on line 15 the following:*
 3 to establish Celebrate Freedom Week; to provide for the posting of historical documents; to
 4 strongly encourage the Department of Education to develop online resources and
 5 instructional support;

6 *By inserting between lines 1169 and 1170 the following:*

7 **SECTION 38A.**

8 Said chapter is further amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

9 "ARTICLE 19A

10 20-2-1020.

11 (a) To educate students about the sacrifices made for freedom in the founding of this
 12 country and the values, principles, and philosophies on which this country was founded,
 13 it is strongly encouraged that the full week in September which includes Constitution Day,
 14 September 17, is recognized in public elementary, middle, and high schools in this state as
 15 Celebrate Freedom Week. It is strongly encouraged that Celebrate Freedom Week include
 16 approximately three hours of appropriate instruction, as determined by each local school
 17 system, in each social studies class. It is strongly encouraged that the instruction include
 18 an age-appropriate study of the intent, meaning, and importance of the Declaration of
 19 Independence and the United States Constitution, including the Bill of Rights, in their
 20 historical context including the background of the colonial era along with instruction about
 21 the Founding Fathers, such as the signers of the Declaration of Independence and the
 22 United States Constitution, the first six Presidents, and particularly George Washington.
 23 The religious references in the writings of the Founding Fathers shall not be censored.
 24 During Celebrate Freedom Week, it is strongly encouraged that local school systems
 25 suggest that students in grades three through 12 read at least one book during the school
 26 year that focuses on the Founding Era, either the times and events or the people who made
 27 significant contributions to independence or toward establishing the new federal or state
 28 governments. In addition, local school systems are strongly encouraged to require students

29 in grades three through 12 to recite at least one of the following three excerpts at least once
 30 during the week, and local school systems are encouraged to require daily recitations from
 31 one or all of these excerpts at the beginning of each school day:

32 (1) From the Declaration of Independence:

33 We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are
 34 endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life,
 35 Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness – That to secure these Rights, Governments are
 36 instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed;

37 (2) From the Preamble of the U.S. Constitution:

38 We the people of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish
 39 Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the
 40 general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do
 41 ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.; or

42 (3) From the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights:

43 Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the
 44 free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press, or the right of
 45 the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of
 46 grievances.

47 (b) Upon written request from a student's parent or guardian, a local school system shall
 48 excuse the student from the recitation required by this Code section. This Code section
 49 shall not apply to a student who:

50 (1) Has a conscientious objection to the recitation; or

51 (2) Is the child of a representative of a foreign government to whom the United States
 52 government extends diplomatic immunity.

53 (c) This Code section shall apply beginning with the 2016-2017 school year.

54 20-2-1021.

55 (a) To increase student understanding of, and familiarity with, American historical
 56 documents, public schools may display historically important excerpts from, or copies of,
 57 those documents in school classrooms and common areas as appropriate. Local boards of
 58 education and charter schools are strongly encouraged to allow and may encourage any
 59 public school teacher or administrator to read or post in a public school building,
 60 classroom, or event excerpts or portions of writings, documents, records, or images that
 61 reflect the history of the United States, including, but not limited to:

62 (1) The Preamble to the Georgia Constitution;

63 (2) The Declaration of Independence;

- 64 (3) The United States Constitution, with emphasis on the 13th, 14th, and 15th
 65 Amendments;
 66 (4) The Bill of Rights;
 67 (5) The Mayflower Compact;
 68 (6) The national motto;
 69 (7) The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag;
 70 (7.1) The Pledge of Allegiance to the Georgia flag;
 71 (8) The National Anthem;
 72 (9) The writings, speeches, documents, and proclamations of the Founding Fathers and
 73 Presidents of the United States;
 74 (9.1) The Emancipation Proclamation;
 75 (9.2) The Gettysburg Address;
 76 (10) Decisions of the United States Supreme Court; and
 77 (11) Acts of the Congress of the United States, including the published text of the
 78 Congressional Record.
 79 (b) As historical documents, there shall be no content based censorship of American
 80 history and heritage documents referred to in this Code section due to their religious or
 81 cultural nature.

82 20-2-1022.

83 To increase student understanding of, and familiarity with, American historical documents
 84 and to provide curriculum support to classroom teachers of United States history, American
 85 government and civics, economics, and social studies, the Department of Education is
 86 strongly encouraged to create an online instructional resource page or pages for teachers,
 87 which may include, but is not limited to, links to websites, foundational documents, and
 88 lesson plan ideas. In order to create shared digital resources available to all students in this
 89 state, such online resources may be integrated with the Teacher Resource Link of the
 90 Statewide Longitudinal Data System. At a minimum, such resource page or pages may
 91 include the items in paragraphs (1) through (11) of subsection (a) of Code Section
 92 20-2-1021 and may focus on the foundational principles of limited constitutional
 93 government, federalism, religious liberty, freedom of speech, the right to private property,
 94 free enterprise, and the rule of law. There shall be no content based censorship of
 95 American history, writings of the Founding Fathers, or heritage documents referred to in
 96 this Code section due to their religious or cultural nature. It is strongly encouraged that the
 97 online teacher resource page be completed and made easily available to teachers no later
 98 than July 31, 2016, and support the requirements specified in Code Section 20-2-1020."