

House Bill 739

By: Representatives Tanner of the 9th, Dudgeon of the 25th, Brockway of the 102nd, Rice of the 95th, Harrell of the 106th, 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 provide that the state recommendation process
3 for instructional materials and content is optional; to require a review and recommendation
4 process for locally approved instructional materials and content; to provide for public review
5 of proposed and approved instructional materials and content; to provide for the designation
6 of a school system coordinator; to provide for an effective date and applicability; to provide
7 for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 SECTION 1.

10 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and
11 secondary education, is amended by revising Code Section 20-2-1012, relating to committee
12 recommendations on instructional materials and content and additions to approved lists, as
13 follows:

14 "20-2-1012.

15 (a)(1) The State Board of Education ~~shall~~ may select a committee or committees of
16 educators actually engaged in public school work in this state to examine instructional
17 materials and content and make recommendations thereon to the state board. Such
18 committee or committees ~~shall~~ may consist of such number of educators as the state
19 board may deem advisable, ~~not exceeding five in each instance.~~ They ~~shall~~ may serve
20 for such time and for such duties as the state board may prescribe and ~~shall~~ may receive
21 such compensation as may be fixed by the state board.

22 (2) In the event that it elects to provide for state approved instructional materials and
23 content, the State Board of Education shall establish a review and recommendation
24 process in accordance with this paragraph. Such process shall include the opportunity for
25 public comment and parental input prior to the adoption of any proposed instructional
26 materials and content. As part of such process, the State Board of Education shall post

27 in a prominent location on its website a list of proposed instructional materials and
 28 content for public review, including the version or edition number, if applicable; the state
 29 funded course number for which the instructional resource will be used; and the
 30 identification number, in accordance with any guidelines established by the State Board
 31 of Education. The State Board of Education shall make all state approved instructional
 32 materials and content available for review upon request and may specify reasonable hours
 33 for review. If state instructional materials and content are approved, the state board shall
 34 designate at least one employee to serve as the contact person for any inquiries related
 35 to or requests for review of state approved instructional materials and content and to
 36 coordinate its efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under this
 37 subsection.

38 (b) In addition to any other method of instructional materials and content selection, the
 39 State Board of Education ~~shall~~ may add to the approved list of instructional materials and
 40 content for use in the public schools of this state any instructional materials and content
 41 requested in writing by:

42 (1) The superintendents of five or more different school systems; or

43 (2) Twenty or more teachers from at least 20 different school systems who teach and are
 44 certified to teach the courses encompassed by the instructional materials and content
 45 requested,

46 if the requisite number of requests for the specified instructional materials and content are
 47 received within any 365 day period. Instructional materials and content so ~~required to be~~
 48 added to the approved list ~~shall~~ may be added within 30 days following the receipt by the
 49 state board of the requisite number of requests. No designation ~~shall~~ may be included upon
 50 the approved list which indicates the manner in which any instructional materials and
 51 content were added to the list. Other than the selection method, publishers whose
 52 instructional materials and content are added to the approved list as provided in this
 53 subsection shall be required to comply with the same rules regarding instructional materials
 54 and content as other publishers, including but not limited to price, durability, accessibility,
 55 and availability."

56 **SECTION 2.**

57 Said chapter is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

58 "20-2-1017.

59 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'locally approved instructional materials and
 60 content' means instructional materials and content, as defined by the State Board of
 61 Education pursuant to Code Section 20-2-1010, which constitute the principal source of
 62 study for a state funded course, not including supplementary or ancillary material, which

63 is adopted by a local board of education or used by a local school system. Supplementary
64 or ancillary material includes, but is not limited to, articles, online simulations, worksheets,
65 novels, biographies, speeches, videos, music, and similar resources in any medium,
66 including both physical or digital.

67 (b) Each local board of education shall establish a review and recommendation process for
68 any locally approved instructional materials and content that are adopted or used by the
69 local school system. Such process shall include the opportunity for public comment and
70 parental input prior to the adoption or use of any proposed instructional materials and
71 content. As part of such process, the local board of education shall post in a prominent
72 location on its website a list of proposed instructional materials and content for public
73 review, including the version or edition number, if applicable; the state funded course
74 number for which the instructional resource will be used, if applicable; and the
75 identification number, in accordance with any guidelines established by the State Board of
76 Education.

77 (c)(1) Each local board of education shall make all locally approved instructional
78 materials and content and any supplementary or ancillary material used by the local
79 school system available for review on site upon request. The local board of education
80 may specify reasonable hours for review.

81 (2) Each local board of education shall designate at least one employee to serve as the
82 contact person for any inquiries related to or requests for review of locally approved
83 instructional materials and content and supplementary or ancillary material and to
84 coordinate its efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under this Code
85 section.

86 (d) In addition, each local school system and each school which maintains a website shall
87 post in a prominent location on such website a list of the locally approved instructional
88 materials and content and supplementary or ancillary material that are used by such school
89 system or school. For each locally approved instructional resource, such list shall include
90 the version or edition number, if applicable; the state funded course number for which the
91 instructional resource will be used, if applicable; and the identification number, in
92 accordance with any guidelines established by the State Board of Education.

93 (e) This Code section shall be effective July 1, 2017, and shall apply beginning with the
94 2017-2018 school year and thereafter."

95 **SECTION 3.**

96 Said chapter is further amended by revising paragraph (3) of subsection (b) of Code Section
97 20-2-168, relating to distribution of federal funds, combined purchase of supplies and

98 equipment, minimum school year, summer school programs, and year-round operation, as
99 follows:

100 "(3) Local units of administration may obtain competitive bids from vendors on such
101 standard items of school equipment, supplies, services, or other expenses based upon
102 uniform specifications established for such items by the state board and may purchase
103 such items from the vendor submitting the best bid to the local unit, whether or not the
104 bid price of such vendor is greater or less than the state bid price on such items; provided,
105 however, that whenever a local unit purchases such standard items at a price in excess of
106 the state bid price for such items, the state board shall, when computing standard costs
107 for allotment of state funds, disallow the excess costs paid for such items by the local
108 unit; ~~provided, further, that local units of administration shall implement textbook~~
109 ~~adoptions from textbook listings prescribed by the state board pursuant to Article 19 of~~
110 ~~this chapter within 18 months of the time said textbook listings are provided by the state~~
111 ~~board.~~ The state board shall prescribe regulations necessary for implementation and
112 enforcement of this subsection and is authorized to establish standards and uniform
113 standard specifications and procedures for the purchase, distribution, use, and
114 maintenance, as the case may be, of school equipment, supplies, services, and other
115 expenses, as may be designated by the state board, whether or not state bid prices are
116 obtained on such items."

117 **SECTION 4.**

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