

The House Committee on Education offers the following substitute to HB 614:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 15 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to miscellaneous provisions under the "Quality Basic Education Act,"
3 so as to provide for a pilot program for the placement of video monitoring cameras in
4 classrooms providing special education services; to provide for program requirements; to
5 provide for a program evaluation; to provide for funding; to provide for automatic repeal; to
6 provide for a short title; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
7 other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Landon Dunson Act."

11 **SECTION 2.**

12 Part 15 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
13 relating to miscellaneous provisions under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended
14 by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

15 "20-2-324.2.

16 (a) The Department of Education is authorized to establish a pilot program to provide for
17 the placement of video monitoring cameras and equipment by a school in self-contained
18 classrooms in which students receive special education services. The purpose of the pilot
19 program shall be to determine the effectiveness, feasibility, and benefits, including any
20 impact on safety and instructional supports to teachers in these classrooms, in consideration
21 of state-wide implementation of the program. The Department of Education is authorized
22 to approve local school systems for participation in the pilot program and may approve
23 local school systems which already utilize video monitoring cameras and equipment in
24 their special education self-contained classrooms through an application process. The
25 department or an approved local school system may approve schools in the local school

26 system for participation in the pilot program. A local school system or school may, in its
 27 sole discretion, agree to participate in such program.

28 (b) Such pilot program shall provide, at a minimum, for:

29 (1) Prior notice of the placement of video monitoring cameras to the parents or guardians
 30 of each student in the approved classrooms;

31 (2) The retention of videos recorded from video monitoring cameras placed pursuant to
 32 this Code section for no less than three months from the date of the recording;

33 (3) The coverage by video monitoring cameras of all areas of the approved classrooms,
 34 to the extent practical; and

35 (4) Procedures and requirements developed by the participating local school system to
 36 protect the confidentiality of student records contained in videos recorded from video
 37 monitoring cameras placed pursuant to this Code section in accordance with the federal
 38 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and Article 15 of this chapter.

39 (c) The video monitoring cameras shall only be used for purposes of classroom instruction,
 40 monitoring classroom interactions, and teacher observation, and review of recorded
 41 material shall only be for such purposes, except with the written permission of the parent
 42 or guardian of a child or pursuant to the subpoena of a court of competent jurisdiction.
 43 Recorded material, including identity of students or demographics of students, shall not be
 44 used for marketing purposes.

45 (d) The Department of Education shall provide guidelines and criteria for a program
 46 evaluation regarding the effectiveness, feasibility, and benefits, including any impact on
 47 safety, of the pilot program, and each local school system participating in such pilot
 48 program shall conduct such program evaluation for the schools in each local school system
 49 that are participating in such pilot program. The department shall collect and report the
 50 results of such evaluation to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Education
 51 and Youth Committee.

52 (e)(1) The pilot program shall also serve as a state level flow through point for any
 53 available state or federal funding.

54 (2) Local school systems may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations from any
 55 person or entity for use in placing video monitoring cameras in classrooms pursuant to
 56 this Code section.

57 (f) This Code section shall stand repealed on June 30, 2021."

58 **SECTION 3.**

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