

House Bill 178

By: Representatives Belton of the 112th, Smyre of the 135th, Smith of the 134th, Williams of the 168th, Blackmon of the 146th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 5 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to program weights and funding requirements under the "Quality Basic
3 Education Act," so as to provide for local school systems to earn funding for school
4 counselors for military students; to provide for definitions; to provide for an expenditure
5 control; to provide that such funding is supplemental to existing school counselor funding;
6 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 Part 5 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
10 relating to program weights and funding requirements under the "Quality Basic Education
11 Act," is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

12 "20-2-192.

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

14 (1) 'Military student' means a student who has a parent or guardian who at any point
15 during the school year:

16 (A) Is an active duty member of the uniformed services, including members of the
17 National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. Sections 1209
18 and 1211;

19 (B) Is a member or veteran of the uniformed services who is severely injured and was
20 medically discharged or retired for a period of one year after medical discharge or
21 retirement; or

22 (C) Was a member of the uniformed services who died on active duty or as a result of
23 injuries sustained on active duty for a period of one year after death.

24 (2) 'Uniformed services' means the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard,
25 Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
26 Administration Commissioned Officer Corps.

27 (b) Each local school system shall earn funding to pay the beginning salaries for one
28 school counselor for every 200 military students in the local school system, subject to
29 appropriation by the General Assembly. Each school counselor for military students shall
30 spend at least 50 percent of his or her time counseling or advising military students and
31 their parents.

32 (c) Each local school system shall spend 100 percent of the funds earned pursuant to this
33 Code section for salaries and benefits for school counselors for military students.

34 (d) The funding provided pursuant to this Code section shall be supplemental to funding
35 earned for counselors pursuant to subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-182."

36 **SECTION 2.**

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