

Senate Bill 150

By: Senators Jones of the 10th, Henson of the 41st, Butler of the 55th, Davenport of the 44th, Parent of the 42nd and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 27 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to loitering at or disrupting schools, so as to provide for certain provisions in written
3 agreements between local boards of education and law enforcement officials; to provide for
4 a code of conduct for law enforcement officers in school settings; to provide for a School
5 Resource Officer Student Reference Guide; to provide for related matters; to repeal
6 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 27 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
10 loitering at or disrupting schools, is amended by revising Code Section 20-2-1183, relating
11 to written agreement for law enforcement officers in schools, as follows:

12 "20-2-1183.

13 When a local school system assigns or employs law enforcement officers in schools, the
14 local board of education shall have a collaborative written agreement with law enforcement
15 officials to establish the role of law enforcement and school employees in school
16 disciplinary matters and ensure coordination and cooperation among officials, agencies,
17 and programs involved in school discipline and public protection. Such collaborative
18 written agreement shall ensure coordination and cooperation among officials, agencies, and
19 programs involved in school discipline, public protection, and juvenile courts. Such
20 collaborative written agreement may include a graduated response program for the
21 commission of minor delinquent acts by students in lieu of referral to juvenile court, a use
22 of force continuum, and a program to minimize the social impact of arrests on the student
23 population. For local school systems that directly employ school resource officers, a
24 written protocol or operating procedures may be used in lieu of a collaborative written
25 agreement; provided, however, that such written protocol or operating procedures shall be

26 subject to the same requirements as collaborative written agreements pursuant to this Code
 27 section."

28 **SECTION 2.**

29 Said article is further amended by adding new Code sections to read as follows:

30 "20-2-1186.

31 (a) Law enforcement officers assigned or employed by a local school system shall be
 32 subject to a code of conduct. The code of conduct shall provide guidelines for the manner
 33 in which such officers interact with students and personnel in the schools within the local
 34 school system.

35 (b) In implementing the code of conduct, law enforcement officers shall utilize their
 36 professional judgment, training, and understanding in interacting and dealing with students,
 37 using the least coercive methods necessary.

38 (c) A code of conduct may include, but not be limited to:

39 (1) Adherence to procedures and rules;

40 (2) General expectations concerning law enforcement officers serving as school resource
 41 officers;

42 (3) The relationship and respective duties of school administrators and law enforcement
 43 officers;

44 (4) The various roles that law enforcement officers in school settings serve;

45 (5) Providing a safe school environment;

46 (6) Conducting investigations;

47 (7) Searching of students;

48 (8) Investigations, questioning, and searches of students for nonschool related purposes
 49 by other law enforcement entities;

50 (9) Arrests of students in schools;

51 (10) Handcuffing of students;

52 (11) Equality of enforcement;

53 (12) Prohibition of bias based profiling;

54 (13) Student rights;

55 (14) Student confidentiality;

56 (15) Students with disabilities;

57 (16) School disciplinary hearings;

58 (17) Coordination with principals; and

59 (18) Human relations.

60 (d) A copy of the code of conduct shall be maintained by law enforcement officers and
 61 school administrators for reference. The code of conduct may also be incorporated by

62 reference in the collaborative written agreement entered into between the local board of
63 education and law enforcement officials pursuant to Code Section 20-2-1183.

64 20-2-1187.

65 (a) Beginning in the 2017-2018 school year and annually thereafter, local school systems
66 which utilize law enforcement officers within their schools, commonly referred to in school
67 settings as school resource officers, shall provide a School Resource Officer Student
68 Reference Guide to each student. The purpose of such student reference guide shall be to
69 enhance personal relationships and understanding between such law enforcement officers
70 and students and staff in the schools. The student reference guide shall be developed by
71 the law enforcement agency, in cooperation with and approved by the local board of
72 education.

73 (b) The student reference guide provided for in subsection (a) of this Code section shall
74 be age-appropriate and shall include, but not be limited to, the primary role and
75 responsibilities of school resource officers, common myths relating to school resource
76 officers, the availability of school resource officers for consultation, how to handle
77 bullying, information on the consequences of distributing obscene material and engaging
78 in social media, the most common student criminal offenses, the legal process of juvenile
79 arrests, and the legal process of adult arrests."

80

SECTION 3.

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