

House Bill 625

By: Representatives Hatchett of the 150<sup>th</sup>, Belton of the 112<sup>th</sup>, Jones of the 47<sup>th</sup>, Coleman of the 97<sup>th</sup>, Nix of the 69<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to local boards of education, so as to require local boards of education to have a  
3 public comment period at every meeting; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting  
4 laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to local  
8 boards of education, is amended by revising Code Section 20-2-58, relating to regular  
9 monthly meetings of local boards, adjournment, temporary presiding officer, and notice of  
10 date, as follows:

11 "20-2-58.

12 (a) It shall be the duty of each local board of education to hold a regular meeting during  
13 each calendar month for the transaction of business pertaining to the public schools. Any  
14 such meeting may be adjourned from time to time, and, in the absence of the president or  
15 secretary, the members of the local board may appoint one of their own number to serve  
16 temporarily. The local board shall annually determine the date of its meeting and shall  
17 publish it either in the official county organ or, at the option of the local board of education,  
18 in a newspaper having a general circulation in said county at least equal to that of the  
19 official county organ for two consecutive weeks following the setting of the date; provided,  
20 however, that the date shall not be changed more often than once in 12 months and, if  
21 changed, the new date shall also be published as provided in this Code section.

22 (b) Each local board of education shall provide a public comment period during every  
23 meeting. Such public comment period shall be included on the agenda required to be made  
24 available and posted prior to the meeting pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection (e) of  
25 Code Section 50-14-1. A local board of education shall not require notice by an individual  
26 prior to the date of the meeting as a condition of addressing the local board during such

27 public comment period. The chairperson of the local board of education shall have the  
28 discretion to limit the length of time for individual comments and the number of  
29 individuals speaking for or against a specific issue."

30

**SECTION 2.**

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