

Senate Bill 21

By: Senators James of the 35th, Rhett of the 33rd, Seay of the 34th and Jones II of the 22nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to competencies and core curriculum, so as to require each local board
3 of education to prescribe mandatory instruction concerning cybersecurity in every year in
4 every grade from kindergarten through grade 12; to provide for a definition; to require the
5 State Board of Education to prescribe a minimum course of study in cybersecurity; to provide
6 for duties of the State School Superintendent; to provide for dates of implementation; to
7 provide 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 Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
11 relating to competencies and core curriculum, is amended by adding a new Code section to
12 read as follows:

13 "20-2-149.3.

14 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'cybersecurity' means the practice of defending
15 computers, servers, mobile devices, electronic systems, networks, and data from criminal
16 or unauthorized use or attacks.

17 (b) Each local board of education shall prescribe mandatory instruction concerning
18 cybersecurity in every year in every grade from kindergarten through grade 12 as shall be
19 determined by the State Board of Education. Such course of study shall implement the
20 minimum course of study provided for in subsection (c) of this Code section or its
21 equivalent, as approved by the State Board of Education. Each local board of education
22 may supplement the exact approach of content areas of such minimum course of study with
23 such curriculum standards as it may deem appropriate.

24 (c) The State Board of Education shall prescribe a minimum course of study in
25 cybersecurity. Instruction also shall be integrated into other curriculum requirements as
26 determined by the State Board of Education. The course shall be age appropriate, shall be

27 sequential in method of study, and shall include the following elements where appropriate
28 in the instruction:

29 (1) Introduction to information technology and cybersecurity in daily life;

30 (2) Information technology and cybersecurity terms;

31 (3) Cybersecurity career choice investigation and exposure through research projects and
32 applied knowledge; and

33 (4) Coursework leading to certification from a recognized accrediting agency in
34 cybersecurity, as determined by the State School Superintendent, for students indicating
35 an election and intention to pursue a career in cybersecurity.

36 (d) A manual setting out the details of such course of study shall be prepared by or
37 approved by the State School Superintendent and such expert advisers as he or she may
38 choose.

39 (e) The minimum course of study to be prescribed by the State Board of Education
40 pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section shall be ready for implementation not later
41 than July 1, 2020. Each local board of education shall implement such minimum course
42 of study or its equivalent not later than December 31, 2020. Any local board of education
43 which fails to comply with this subsection shall not be eligible to receive state funding
44 under this article until such minimum course of study or its equivalent has been
45 implemented."

46 **SECTION 2.**

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