

House Bill 589

By: Representatives Gambill of the 15<sup>th</sup>, Erwin of the 28<sup>th</sup>, Glanton of the 75<sup>th</sup>, Wade of the 9<sup>th</sup>, and Rich of the 97<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 14 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to education accountability assessment programs, so as to create the Georgia  
3 Commission on Civics Education; to provide for membership, filling of vacancies, terms,  
4 officers, duties, meetings, and reimbursement of members of the commission; to provide for  
5 a short title; to provide for legislative intent; to provide for automatic repeal; to provide for  
6 an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "The Georgia Civics Renewal Act."

10 **SECTION 2.**

11 Article 2 of Chapter 14 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
12 education accountability assessment programs, is amended by adding a new part to read as  
13 follows:

14 "Part 10

15 20-14-95.

16 (a) There is created the Georgia Commission on Civics Education.

17 (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the commission shall promote and enhance  
18 the education of students on the importance of civic involvement in a constitutional  
19 republic, the study of state and local government among the state's citizenry, the  
20 importance of civic engagement and public service, and communication and collaboration  
21 among organizations in the state that conduct civics education.

22 (c)(1) The commission shall consist of 15 members comprising one member from the  
23 Senate majority caucus, one member from the Senate minority caucus, one member from  
24 the House of Representatives majority caucus, one member from the House of  
25 Representatives minority caucus, one Justice of the Supreme Court, the Attorney General,  
26 one designee from the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, one designee from the Metro  
27 Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, the State School Superintendent or his or her designee,  
28 one other member as determined by the President of the Senate, one other member as  
29 determined by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one other member as  
30 determined by the Governor, two former or current government or civics teachers  
31 appointed by the Governor, and one representative from the Georgia Center for Civic  
32 Engagement appointed by the Governor.

33 (2) Vacancies in the commission shall be filled the same as the original appointments.

34 (3)(A) Legislative members of the commission shall serve two-year terms concurrent  
35 with their terms as members of the General Assembly.

36 (B) Nonlegislative members of the commission shall serve two-year terms concurrent  
37 with those terms of legislative members of the commission.

38 (d) The Governor shall designate the chairperson of the commission. The chairperson  
39 shall serve as such concurrent with his or her term as a member of the commission.

40 (e)(1) The commission shall periodically review the conditions, needs, issues, and  
41 problems related to civics education in Georgia schools, issue annually a report on the  
42 same to the General Assembly, and recommend any action or legislation which the  
43 commission deems necessary or appropriate.

44 (2) The commission may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it  
45 may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its  
46 powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this Code  
47 section. The commission shall meet upon the call of the chairperson. The commission  
48 shall meet not less than two nor more than four times annually.

49 (3) The legislative members of the commission shall receive the allowances provided for  
50 in Code Section 28-1-8. Any citizen members shall receive a daily expense allowance  
51 in the amount specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21, as well as the mileage  
52 or transportation allowance authorized for state employees. Any members of the  
53 commission who are state officials, other than legislative members, and state employees  
54 shall receive no compensation for their services on the commission, but they shall be  
55 reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties as members  
56 of the commission in the same manner as they are reimbursed for expenses in their  
57 capacities as state officials or employees. The funds necessary for the reimbursement of  
58 the expenses of state officials, other than legislative members, and state employees shall  
59 come from funds appropriated to or otherwise available to the Department of Education.  
60 All other funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this Code section shall come from  
61 funds appropriated to the House of Representatives and the Senate. The expenses and  
62 allowances authorized by this paragraph shall not be received by members of the  
63 commission for more than four days annually.

64 (f) The head of the social studies program of the Department of Education shall report  
65 annually to the commission regarding the conditions, needs, issues, and problems of the  
66 program.

67 (g) This part shall stand repealed on December 31, 2028."

68 **SECTION 3.**

69 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
70 without such approval.

71 **SECTION 4.**

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