

Senate Bill 220

By: Senators Payne of the 54th, Anavitarte of the 31st, Mullis of the 53rd, Summers of the 13th, Dugan of the 30th and others

AS PASSED SENATE

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 1015 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, including, but not limited to,
42 career, technical, and agricultural education (CTAE) instruction for the government and
43 public administration and the law, public safety, corrections, and security pathways, and
44 shall issue annually a report on the same to the General Assembly, and recommend any
45 action or legislation which the commission deems necessary or appropriate.

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

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

66 (f) The head of the social studies program of the Department of Education shall report
67 annually to the commission regarding the conditions, needs, issues, and problems of the
68 program. Such report shall include a statement of efforts undertaken by the Department
69 of Education to inform and encourage local school systems to recruit and utilize
70 supplemental resources from appropriate local and community organizations which
71 promote civics and civics education as among their primary purposes.
72 (g) This part shall stand repealed on December 31, 2028."

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SECTION 3.

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

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SECTION 4.

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