

House Bill 347

By: Representatives Ashe of the 56th, Hugley of the 133rd, Teilhet of the 40th, Porter of the 143rd, Smyre of the 132nd, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 9 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to grants for educational programs, so as to provide for grants for pilot
3 projects to encourage the lengthening of the school year and the conditions and procedures
4 relating thereto; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
5 purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Part 9 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
9 relating to grants for educational programs, is amended by adding a new Code section to read
10 as follows:

11 "20-2-259.1.

12 (a) The State Board of Education shall provide three-year grants, beginning in the
13 2009-2010 school year, for pilot projects to encourage the lengthening of the school year.
14 Such grants shall be made available to any local school system or school but shall only be
15 awarded to one local school system and to one school not a part of such system which
16 agrees to extend its school year to either a 200 or 220 day school year. A local school
17 system shall not be eligible for such grant unless it has 6,000 or less full-time equivalent
18 students. An individual school shall not be eligible for such grant unless its local board of
19 education agrees to the conditions of the grant pursuant to this Code section. The grant
20 shall be available for three years to a school through its local board of education or to a
21 local school system, conditioned upon agreement to lengthen the school year for each of
22 those three years and its submission to any evaluation required pursuant to subsection (d)
23 of this Code section. Any such grant shall be subject to the appropriation of funds by the
24 General Assembly for the first fiscal year in which the grant is to begin.

25 (b) The grant amount which a local school system or school is entitled to receive for a
26 fiscal year under this Code section shall be an amount equal to 20 percent greater for a 200

1 day school year or 40 percent greater for a 220 day school year than the amount that local
2 school system or school would otherwise have received for that school year had it not
3 participated in the pilot program. From such grant amounts and for each year of the grant,
4 teachers and other personnel of the local school system or school, other than 12 month
5 employees, shall receive a 10 percent increase in salary for a 200 day school year and a 20
6 percent increase in salary for a 220 day school year.

7 (c) A local school system or school which applies for a grant under this Code section shall
8 provide with such application proof that its local board of education has conducted at least
9 one public hearing, held at a special meeting of such board of which due notice was
10 provided as specified in Code Section 50-14-1, regarding its intention to apply for a grant
11 for lengthening the school year. At this meeting, the conditions of such grant shall be
12 explained and public comments received by the board. The application must also show that
13 a majority of parents of students attending the school or local school system has not
14 expressed disapproval of the application.

15 (d) The State Board of Education shall give preference to early applicants for the grants
16 under this Code section and shall evaluate annually the results of lengthening the school
17 year by grant recipients. Funding for the grants shall begin in fiscal year 2010 with the
18 lengthened school year of the grant recipients beginning at the start of the 2009-2010
19 school year."

20 SECTION 2.

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