Senate Bill 29

By: Senators Seay of the 34th, Starr of the 44th, Clay of the 37th, Balfour of the 9th and Thomas of the 2nd

AS PASSED

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To amend Code Section 20-2-1183 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to prohibition of electronic pagers and communication devices, so as to authorize each local board of education to establish a policy to either permit or prohibit the possession of electronic communication devices by students in school; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Code Section 20-2-1183 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to prohibition of electronic pagers and communication devices, is amended by striking said Code section in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"20-2-1183.

~~(a) No local board of education shall permit any pupil to carry a pocket pager or electronic communication device in school except for health or other unusual reasons approved by the board of education.~~

~~(b) Any student found in violation of the provisions of this Code section be subject to placement in an alternative education program~~. The possession of an electronic communication device by a student in school shall be permitted or prohibited as specifically prescribed by rule or policy set by the local board of education. If prohibited, the local board of education may provide for exceptions to such prohibition and for disciplinary actions for possession in violation of the prohibition. If possession of an electronic communication device by a student in school is permitted, the local board policy shall not permit the use by a student of any personal electronic communication device during classroom instructional time."

SECTION 2.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.