

Senate Bill 403

By: Senators Millar of the 40th, Stoner of the 6th, Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd, Shafer of the 48th and Carter of the 42nd

AS PASSED

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT**

To amend Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and secondary education, so as to revise provisions relating to school health nurse programs; to include school nurses in state formula funding based on full-time equivalent student counts; to provide for grants for supplies for school health nurse programs; to provide for a state-level coordinator for school health nurse programs; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and secondary education, is amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 20-2-186, relating to allocation of funds for local systems to pay beginning salaries of superintendents, secretaries, accountants, nurses, and certain other personnel, as follows:

“(a) Funds provided under this article shall include the following for local systems to pay, on a 12 month basis, the beginning salaries of superintendents, assistant superintendents, and principals and the salaries of secretaries, accountants, and nurses, subject to appropriation by the General Assembly:

(1) Each local system shall earn, for any number of full-time equivalent students equal to or under 5,000, funds sufficient to pay the beginning salaries of a superintendent and two assistant superintendents and the salaries of a secretary and an accountant; and

(2) For numbers of full-time equivalent students over 5,000 and less than 10,001, funds sufficient to pay the beginning salaries of a superintendent and four assistant superintendents and the salaries of a secretary and an accountant; and

(3) For numbers of full-time equivalent students over 10,000, funds sufficient to pay the beginning salaries of a superintendent and eight assistant superintendents and the salaries of a secretary and an accountant; and

(4) Each local system shall earn funds for the 2000-2001 school year sufficient to pay the beginning salary of a principal for each school in the local school system with a principal of record for the preceding year. Thereafter, each local school system shall earn funds sufficient to pay the beginning salary of a principal for each school in the local school system that reported a principal on the October certified personnel information report; provided, however, that any school which operates as a combination school, which is defined as any of the elementary grades, kindergarten through grade five, contiguous with one or more of the middle grades, grades six through eight; or as a combination school of any of the middle grades, grades six through eight, contiguous with one or more of the elementary grades or contiguous with one or more of the high school grades, grades nine through 12; or as a combination school of any of the high school grades, contiguous with one or more of the middle grades, shall earn funds sufficient to pay the beginning salary of a principal for each of the elementary, middle, or high school combinations. Beginning with the 2001-2002 school year, funds cannot be earned for more than one principal's salary for schools on the same campus sharing facilities unless the schools operate as a combination school as defined in this paragraph with separate facility codes issued by the Department of Education. A local school system shall earn funds in the midterm adjustment sufficient to pay the beginning salary of a principal for a new school, if not otherwise earning the funds, when the school has reported full-time equivalent program counts in the October count, has an approved new school facility code issued by the department, and has reported a principal on the October certified personnel information report under the new facility code. It is further provided that funds for the salary of a principal shall not be earned under this paragraph for an evening school or alternative school; and

(5) Each local system shall earn ~~funds sufficient to pay for nursing services~~ funding for one nurse for every 750 full-time equivalent students at the elementary school level and one nurse for every 1,500 full-time equivalent students at the middle and high school levels. Such funding shall have a ratio of one registered professional nurse to five licensed practical nurses. Such funding shall be based on a contract length of 180 days and shall be sufficient to pay 50 percent of the average salary and benefits, as determined by the Department of Education, for a registered professional nurse or for a licensed practical nurse; provided, however, that such amount shall be phased in so that, in Fiscal Year 2013, such amount shall be 40 percent and, in Fiscal Year 2014, such amount shall be 45 percent. Local school systems shall not be required to provide any local matching funds for school nurses to receive funds pursuant to this paragraph. Local school systems that do not meet the minimum full-time equivalent student counts set out in this paragraph shall receive a base amount of funding. Each local school system shall expend

63 100 percent of the funds earned pursuant to this paragraph for salaries and benefits for
64 school nurses."

65 **SECTION 2.**

66 Said chapter is further amended in Part 5 of Article 5, relating to program weights and
67 funding requirements, by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

68 "20-2-190.

69 Subject to appropriations by the General Assembly, the State Board of Education shall
70 provide grants to local school systems for the purpose of purchasing supplies for school
71 health nurse programs, as required pursuant to Code Section 20-2-771.2. The grant funds
72 shall be distributed to local school systems on a full-time equivalent basis. The state board
73 shall establish regulations as to the manner in which such grant funds may be used."

74 **SECTION 3.**

75 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 20-2-771.2, relating to school
76 health nurse programs, as follows:

77 "20-2-771.2.

78 (a) Each local board of education shall establish policies and procedures regarding a
79 school health nurse program. Such school health nurse programs shall be staffed by
80 licensed health care professionals. Each local board of education may contract or consult
81 with health professionals knowledgeable in children's health issues to establish the
82 standards, policies, and procedures of a school health nurse program. Such standards,
83 policies, and procedures shall be in accordance with the restrictions set forth in Code
84 Section 20-2-773.

85 (b) Subject to appropriations, there may be established within the Department of Education
86 a school health nurse program coordinator, whose responsibilities may include:

87 (1) Assisting local school systems in establishing and implementing the school health
88 nurse programs required by subsection (a) of this Code section, including development
89 of guidelines for utilizing volunteers and retirees to supplement the programs;

90 (2) Assisting in standardizing the reporting of any health information from local school
91 systems;

92 (3) Assisting local school systems in identifying and obtaining available additional
93 funding and support for school health nurse programs from federal and other sources,
94 including, but not limited to, Medicaid funds and partnerships with local hospitals or
95 other health care facilities; and

96 (4) Other related duties to support school health nurse programs."

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SECTION 4.

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