

Senate Bill 159

By: Senators Gooch of the 51st, Miller of the 49th, Burke of the 11th, Ginn of the 47th and Payne of the 54th

**AS PASSED SENATE**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 elementary and secondary education, so as to revise a provision relating to student  
3 transportation; to authorize local boards of education to use vehicles other than school buses  
4 for the transport of students to and from school related activities; to provide for minimum  
5 requirements; to provide for insurance; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting  
6 laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and  
10 secondary education, is amended in Code Section 20-2-188, relating to student  
11 transportation, by revising subsection (e) as follows:

12 "(e) The State Board of Education shall establish and require adherence to minimum  
13 specifications for vehicles used or contracted to be used by local units of administration for  
14 transporting students, including a motor vehicle with a capacity of eight persons or less  
15 operated and marked for the transportation of school children to and from school activities,  
16 taking into account the factors and circumstances set forth in subsection (a) of this Code

17 section, and shall establish and require adherence to minimum standards and requirements  
18 respecting maintenance, repair, inspection, and use of such vehicles and minimum  
19 qualifications for the drivers of such vehicles; provided, however, that such transportation  
20 shall not be authorized to be provided by a ride share network service or transportation  
21 referral service, as such terms are defined in Code Section 40-1-190. The state board shall  
22 require, monitor, and fund a program of safety instruction in the practices of safe riding and  
23 emergency bus evacuation drills for both school bus drivers and students riding school  
24 buses."

25

**SECTION 2.**

26 Said chapter is further amended in Part 1 of Article 22, relating to the powers of state and  
27 local school officials with respect to school buses, by adding a new Code section to read as  
28 follows:

29 "20-2-1076.

30 (a) Local boards of education may authorize the use of vehicles other than school buses  
31 for the transport of students to and from school related activities, where appropriate. Such  
32 vehicles may include motor vehicles with a capacity of eight persons or less operated and  
33 marked for the transportation of school children to and from school activities; provided,  
34 however, that such transportation shall not be authorized to be provided by a ride share  
35 network service or transportation referral service, as such terms are defined in Code  
36 Section 40-1-190.

37 (b) Local boards shall comply with all requirements established by the State Board of  
38 Education pursuant to Code Section 20-2-188, including minimum standards and  
39 requirements, which shall be delineated separately from requirements for school buses; for  
40 maintenance, repair, inspection, and use of such vehicles; minimum qualifications for the  
41 drivers of such vehicles; and other requirements as deemed necessary by the State Board

42 of Education. Local boards may establish requirements in addition to such minimum state  
43 requirements, in the discretion of the local board.

44 (c) Local boards are authorized and required to cause policies of insurance to be issued  
45 insuring the students being transported to and from school related activities against bodily  
46 injury or death at any time resulting from an accident or collision in which such vehicles  
47 are involved. The amount of such insurance shall be within the discretion of each local  
48 board of education."

49

**SECTION 3.**

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