

Senate Bill 560

By: Senators Jones of the 10th, Butler of the 55th, Anderson of the 43rd, Davenport of the 44th, Jackson of the 41st and others

AS PASSED SENATE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend an Act to create and establish in DeKalb County, Georgia, districts from which
2 the members of the County Board of Education of DeKalb County shall be elected, approved
3 April 12, 1963 (Ga. L. 1963, p. 3424), as amended, so as to provide for a code of conduct for
4 board members and a duty to abide by the same; to revise provisions relating to the
5 compensation of the board; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
6 other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 An Act to create and establish in DeKalb County, Georgia, districts from which the members
10 of the County Board of Education of DeKalb County shall be elected, approved
11 April 12, 1963 (Ga. L. 1963, p. 3424), as amended, is amended by adding a new section to
12 read as follows:

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"SECTION 6.1.

14 (a) It shall be the duty of each member of the board to abide by the code of conduct
15 provided for in this section. Furthermore, it shall be the duty of each member of the board
16 to enforce said code of conduct in the manner provided for in this section.

17 (b) The following code of conduct shall apply to all members of the board:

18 (1) Board members shall faithfully adhere to the code of ethics provided for in O.C.G.A.
19 Code Section 20-2-72.

20 (2) During all meetings of the board, each board member shall:

21 (A) Conduct himself or herself in an appropriate manner befitting the dignity of the
22 office he or she holds;

23 (B) Treat all other board members, school district employees, and members of the
24 public with courtesy;

25 (C) Handle disagreements with other board members in a respectful, professional, and
26 nonconfrontational manner;

27 (D) Work with other board members in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of
28 differences of opinion; and

29 (E) Interact with school district employees in a respectful, professional, and
30 nonconfrontational manner, even if such board member disagrees with a staff
31 recommendation.

32 (c)(1) During each meeting of the board, the chairperson presiding at such meeting shall
33 have the authority and responsibility for maintaining good order. In the event that one
34 or more board member fails to conduct himself or herself in a manner consistent with the
35 code of ethics and this code of conduct during a meeting of the board, the chairperson
36 shall, at his or her discretion, remind the board members of the code of ethics, this code
37 of conduct, and proper order.

38 (2) If a board member fails to heed the remarks of the chairperson regarding proper order
39 and continues to conduct himself or herself in a manner inconsistent with proper order,
40 the code of ethics, and this code of conduct during a meeting, another board member may
41 make:

42 (A) A motion that the offending board member must apologize;

43 (B) A motion that the offending board member must leave the meeting place for the
44 remainder of the meeting; or

45 (C) A motion to censure the board member.

46 A motion may be made to direct the offending board member to leave the meeting place
47 while the board discusses any of the above motions. If no such motion is made, and the
48 offending board member remains in the meeting place during the discussion of any of the
49 above motions, the offending board member shall be given a brief opportunity to speak
50 in his or her own defense."

51 **SECTION 2.**

52 Said Act is further amended by revising Section 9 as follows:

53 **"SECTION 9.**

54 (a)(1) The chairperson of the board shall receive \$24,500.00 per annum as full
55 compensation for his or her duties on the board. Such compensation shall be paid in
56 equal monthly installments from the funds of the board.

57 (2) The vice-chairperson of the board shall receive \$23,500.00 per annum as full
58 compensation for his or her duties on the board. Such compensation shall be paid in
59 equal monthly installments from the funds of the board.

60 (3) Each member of the board, other than the chairperson and vice-chairperson, shall
61 receive \$22,500.00 per annum as full compensation for his or her duties on the board.

62 Such compensation shall be paid to each member in equal monthly installments from the
63 funds of the board.

64 (b)(1) In addition to the salary provided in subsection (a) of this section, the chairperson
65 of the board shall receive an expense allowance of \$2,500.00 per annum.

66 (2) In addition to the salary provided in subsection (a) of this section, each member of
67 the board shall receive an expense allowance of \$2,000.00 per annum."

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SECTION 3.

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