

Senate Bill 96

By: Senators Anavitarte of the 31st, Dixon of the 45th, Brass of the 28th, Halpern of the 39th, Esteves of the 6th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-2-984 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 Professional Standards Commission's authority to create and implement standards and
3 procedures for certifying educational personnel, recommending standards and procedures for
4 certification, continuation of teaching certificates, and restrictions, so as to provide that the
5 commission's standards and procedures for certification programs shall be neutral with
6 respect to whether such programs are provided by for profit or not for profit entities and shall
7 consider teacher programs outside of this state which meet certain requirements of the
8 commission; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 Code Section 20-2-984 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
12 Professional Standards Commission's authority to create and implement standards and
13 procedures for certifying educational personnel, recommending standards and procedures for
14 certification, continuation of teaching certificates, and restrictions, is amended by revising
15 subsection (a) as follows:

S. B. 96

- 1 -

"(a) The commission shall create and implement standards and procedures for certifying educational personnel as qualified for a certificate to practice in the public schools of Georgia; provided, however, that such standards and procedures shall not require an individual to participate in or complete any training program in which divisive concepts, as such term is defined in Code Section 20-1-11, are advocated for; and provided, further, that such standards shall include the following:

(1) Procedures for limiting the number and types of certificates to the fewest possible consistent with providing qualified teachers for Georgia's schools;

(2) In-service training and related requirements needed to renew or maintain certification;

(3) Multiple or alternative routes to professional teacher certification, including, but not limited to, the alternative and nontraditional teacher certification programs provided for in Code Section 20-2-206; provided, however, that the commission's standards and procedures shall:

(A) Be neutral with respect to whether such teacher certification programs are provided by for profit or not for profit entities; and

(B) Consider nationally accredited teacher certification programs outside of this state which meet academic accreditation and certification requirements of the Professional Standards Commission; and

(4) Requirements, including appropriate examinations and assessments, for acquiring and maintaining certification pursuant to Code Section 20-2-200."

SECTION 2.

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