

The House Committee on Education offers the following substitute to SB 464:

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 the "Georgia Early Literacy Act"; to  
3 provide for the identification of up to five universal reading screeners, one of which shall be  
4 a free universal reading screener, for use by public schools and local school systems; to  
5 provide for approval of a memorandum of agreement; to provide for the adoption, use, and  
6 administration of a universal reading screener; to establish the School Supplies for Educators  
7 Program, subject to appropriation by the General Assembly and the availability of other  
8 funds for such purpose; to provide for a short title; to require the State Board of Education  
9 to establish a program for the Department of Education to allocate funds for eligible  
10 educators to purchase school supplies online; to require the State Board of Education to  
11 establish policies, rules, and regulations; to provide for the State School Superintendent, in  
12 collaboration with the Department of Administrative Services, to identify one or more  
13 authorized software services providers to offer and support a user-friendly online ecommerce  
14 platform for educators to purchase school supplies; to require the Department of Education  
15 to establish processes for implementation of the program; to provide for educator eligibility  
16 to participate in the program; to provide for local school systems and public schools to certify  
17 educator eligibility; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to provide for  
18 an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

S. B. 464 (SUB)

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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

20 SECTION 1.

21 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and  
22 secondary education, is amended by adding two new paragraphs to subsection (b), revising  
23 subparagraphs (c)(3)(B), (c)(4)(A), and (c)(4)(B), and repealing and reserving subparagraph  
24 (d)(3)(B) of Code Section 20-2-153.1, relating to Georgia Early Literacy, definitions,  
25 uniform grade appropriate metrics to measure literacy, role of school boards, and  
26 accommodations, to read as follows:

27 "(1.1) 'Center' means the Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy.

28 (1.2) 'Council' means the Georgia Council on Literacy."

29 "(B) ~~By May 15, 2025~~ As soon as practicable but not later than July 1, 2024, the board  
30 shall approve the memorandum of agreement between the council and the department,  
31 as provided for in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (4) of this subsection, for a list of no  
32 more than five universal reading screeners, one of which shall be a free universal  
33 reading screener, for use by public schools and local school systems as part of their  
34 comprehensive literacy programs which meet the following criteria:"

35 "(4)(A) ~~As soon as practicable but not later than August~~ By June 1, 2024 2025, the  
36 department shall publish on its public website a list of board approved providers of  
37 universal reading screeners for use by public schools and local school systems,  
38 including the free universal reading screener provided by the department and the list of  
39 other approved universal reading screeners, one of which each public school and local  
40 school system shall adopt and administer in order to comply with the requirements of  
41 subparagraph (d)(3)(C) of this Code section.

42 (B) The ~~department shall provide~~ council, in collaboration with the center and the  
43 Office of Planning and Budget, shall identify a free universal reading screener that  
44 meets the criteria established by the board as provided in subparagraph (B) of paragraph

45 (3) of this subsection. The council shall enter into a memorandum of agreement with  
46 the department to make such ~~Such~~ universal reading screener ~~shall be made~~ available  
47 for use free of charge to public schools and local school systems ~~and shall be included~~  
48 ~~on the list provided for in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph."~~

49 **SECTION 2.**

50 Said chapter is further amended in Article 17, relating to teachers and other school personnel,  
51 is amended by adding a new part to read as follows:

52 "Part 13

53 20-2-989.30.

54 This part shall be known and may be cited as the 'School Supplies for Educators Act.'

55 20-2-989.31.

56 As used in this part, the term:

57 (1) 'Authorized ecommerce vendor' means an ecommerce vendor that has been approved  
58 by the Department of Education in accordance with policies, rules, and regulations  
59 established by the State Board of Education.

60 (2) 'Ecommerce' means a commercial transaction, which may include the transmission  
61 of funds or data or both, conducted electronically via the internet.

62 (3) 'Eligible educator' means a teacher, paraprofessional, or school administrator  
63 employed in good standing at a public school in this state.

64 (4) 'School Supplies for Educators Program' or 'program' means the program established  
65 pursuant to this part to provide financial and technical assistance to eligible educators  
66 who purchase school supplies online as provided in this part.

67 (5) 'User' means an eligible educator who is certified by a participating local school  
68 system or public school as eligible to participate in the program and who has a user  
69 account.

70 (6) 'User account' means the unique platform account assigned by the Department of  
71 Education to each eligible educator.

72 20-2-989.32.

73 (a) The School Supplies for Educators Program is established to provide financial and  
74 technical assistance to educators who purchase school supplies online as provided in this  
75 part.

76 (b) The requirements of this part shall be subject to appropriation of funds by the General  
77 Assembly or the availability of other funds for such purpose.

78 20-2-989.33.

79 (a) The State Board of Education shall:

80 (1) Establish a program for the Department of Education to allocate funds for eligible  
81 educators to be used at the discretion of such educators for the online purchase of school  
82 supplies as provided in this part;

83 (2) Establish such policies, rules, and regulations as necessary for the implementation  
84 of this part; and

85 (3) Authorize the State School Superintendent, in collaboration with the Department of  
86 Administrative Services, to identify one or more authorized software services providers  
87 to offer and support a user-friendly online ecommerce platform that:

88 (A) Processes the allocation of funds by the Department of Education to the user  
89 accounts of eligible educators for the online purchase of school supplies from  
90 authorized ecommerce vendors; and

91 (B) Includes appropriate fiscal management and payment systems and reporting and  
92 training tools, as required by the State Board of Education.

93 (b) The Department of Education shall:

94 (1) Ensure that purchases using program funds are restricted to online purchases of  
95 school supplies from authorized ecommerce vendors;

96 (2) Promulgate guidelines and provide technical assistance to facilitate local school  
97 systems, public schools, and educators utilizing the program and to ensure program  
98 purchases are restricted to allowable expenses; and

99 (3) Establish processes as necessary for the implementation of the program consistent  
100 with the provisions of this part and with the policies, rules, and regulations of the State  
101 Board of Education.

102 (c) Each local school system or public school shall certify, as required by the Department  
103 of Education, the eligibility of each educator employed by such local school system or  
104 public school who requests a user account; provided, that to be eligible for a user account  
105 an educator shall be employed in good standing at a public school."

106 **SECTION 3.**

107 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
108 without such approval.

109 **SECTION 4.**

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