

House Bill 544

By: Representatives Berry of the 56th, Miller of the 62nd, Park of the 107th, Hugley of the 141st, Frye of the 122nd, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-2-310 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 student directory information, registering to vote and with selective service, and pledge of
3 allegiance, so as to establish the Jimmy Carter Award for Civic Engagement; to provide for
4 policies and procedures; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
5 other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 20-2-310 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to student
9 directory information, registering to vote and with selective service, and pledge of allegiance,
10 is amended by revising subsection (b) as follows:

11 "(b)(1) Each eligible student in the public schools of this state shall be apprised of his or
12 her right to register as an elector and to vote in elections and of any obligation to register
13 with the Selective Service System. Each eligible student shall be given an opportunity,
14 arranged by the school administration, to register to vote at his or her school during the
15 month of April of each year. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules and

16 regulations to carry out this Code section. An excused absence of a student to register or
17 vote, at the discretion of the local unit of administration, shall not exceed one school day.

18 (2)(A) There is established the Jimmy Carter Award for Civic Engagement to
19 recognize public schools at which a high percentage of eligible students are registered
20 to vote. In order to qualify for the Jimmy Carter Award for Civic Engagement, a public
21 school shall meet the following criteria:

22 (i) For a gold level award, 100 percent of eligible students at such public school shall
23 be registered to vote; or

24 (ii) For a silver level award, 85 percent of eligible students at such public school shall
25 be registered to vote.

26 (B) The Department of Education shall develop policies and procedures to recognize
27 public schools which meet the criteria for an award pursuant to this paragraph."

28 **SECTION 2.**

29 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.