

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth offered the following substitute to SB 65:

MOOT

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 provide for mandatory kindergarten for all
3 children prior to entering into first grade; to provide for related matters; to provide for
4 contingent effectiveness; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and
8 secondary education, is amended in Code Section 20-2-150, relating to eligibility for
9 enrollment for educational programs, by revising subsection (c) as follows:

10 "(c) All children enrolled for 20 school days or more in the public schools of this state
11 prior to their ~~seventh~~ sixth birthday shall become subject to all of the provisions of this
12 article, the provisions of Code Sections 20-2-690 through 20-2-701, and the rules and
13 regulations of the State Board of Education relating to compulsory school attendance even
14 though they have not attained ~~seven~~ six years of age."

15 **SECTION 2.**

16 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 20-2-151, relating to general and career
17 education programs, by revising paragraph (1) of subsection (b) as follows:

18 "(1)(A) All local school systems ~~may~~ shall offer a full-day kindergarten program. For
19 purposes of this subsection, the term 'full-day kindergarten program' means a student
20 is provided classroom instruction for a minimum of four and one-half hours daily for
21 a 180 day school year, or the equivalent thereof as determined in accordance with State
22 Board of Education guidelines.

23 (B) It is the policy of this state that all children shall attend a full-day kindergarten
24 program for one school year prior to enrolling in first grade and that the purposes of the
25 kindergarten such program shall be to provide all children with an equal opportunity
26 to become prepared for a successful first grade experience and to acquire the foundation
27 for academic progress throughout the students' educational careers. To be eligible for
28 enrollment in a state supported kindergarten program, a child must attain the age of five
29 by September 1, except as otherwise provided by subsection (b) of Code Section
30 20-2-150;"

31 **SECTION 3.**

32 This Act shall become effective only upon the effective date of a specific appropriation of
33 funds for purposes of this Act, as expressed in a line item making specific reference to such
34 Act in a General Appropriations Act enacted by the General Assembly.

35 **SECTION 4.**

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