

House Bill 796

By: Representatives Lupton of the 83rd and Lim of the 98th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 4 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to financing under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to revise
3 QBE program weights based on recommendations of the 2015 Education Reform
4 Commission; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
5 purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Part 4 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
9 relating to financing under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended by revising Code
10 Section 20-2-161, relating to the Quality Basic Education Formula, as follows:

11 "20-2-161.

12 (a) The ~~high~~ middle school general education program is declared to be the base program
13 against which the cost of all other instructional programs shall be compared. The amount
14 of funds needed by each full-time equivalent student in the base program, in order that such
15 program can be sufficiently funded to provide quality basic education to all enrolled
16 students, shall be known as the 'base amount' and shall reflect program components which

H. B. 796

17 constitute the program weight for the ~~high middle~~ school general education program in
 18 Code Sections 20-2-182 through 20-2-186. However, the General Assembly shall annually
 19 establish through the General Appropriations Act the base amount to be used each year.
 20 In the event that the base amount so established when multiplied by the program weights
 21 in subsection (b) of this Code section requires funds in excess of the appropriation for the
 22 Quality Basic Education Formula grants, the funds which are appropriated for the Quality
 23 Basic Education Formula shall be prorated to each of the Quality Basic Education Formula
 24 cost categories.

25 (b) As the cost of instructional programs varies depending upon the ~~teacher-student ratios~~
 26 ~~and~~ specific services typically required to address the special needs of students enrolled,
 27 state authorized instructional programs shall have the following program weights ~~and~~
 28 ~~teacher-student ratios~~:

29	(1) Kindergarten program	1.6901
30		weight and
31		1 to 15
32		ratio
33	(2) Kindergarten early intervention program	2.0951
34		weight and
35		1 to 11
36		ratio

37	(3) Primary grades program (1-3)	1.3029
38		weight and
39		1 to 17
40		ratio
41	(4) Primary grades early intervention program (1-3)	1.8388
42		weight and
43		1 to 11
44		ratio
45	(5) Upper elementary grades program (4-5)	1.0417
46		weight and
47		1 to 23
48		ratio
49	(6) Upper elementary grades early intervention program (4-5)	1.8340
50		weight and
51		1 to 11
52		ratio
53	(7) Middle school program (6-8)	1.1439
54		weight and
55		1 to 20
56		ratio

57	(8) High school general education program (9-12)	1.0000
58		weight and
59		1 to 23
60		ratio
61	(9) Career, technical, and agricultural education	
62	laboratory program (9-12)	1.1762
63		weight and
64		1 to 20
65		ratio
66	(10) Program for persons with disabilities:	2.4763
67	Category I	weight and
68		1 to 8
69		ratio
70	(11) Program for persons with disabilities:	
71	Category II	2.9213
72		weight and
73		1 to 6.5
74		ratio
75	(12) Program for persons with disabilities:	
76	Category III	3.7151
77		weight and
78		1 to 5
79		ratio

80	(13) Program for persons with disabilities:	
81	Category IV	6.0106
82		weight and
83		1 to 3
84		ratio
85	(14) Program for persons with disabilities:	
86	Category V	2.5307
87		weight and
88		1 to 8
89		ratio
90	(15) Program for intellectually gifted students:	1.7340
91	Category VI	weight and
92		1 to 12
93		ratio
94	(16) Remedial education program	1.3698
95		weight and
96		1 to 15
97		ratio
98	(17) Alternative education program	1.5026
99		weight and
100		1 to 15
101		ratio

102	(18) English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) program	2.6313
103		weight and
104		1 to 7
105		ratio
106	<u>(1) Students enrolled in pre-kindergarten through grade three . . .</u>	<u>0.2954 weight</u>
107	<u>(2) Students enrolled in grades four and five</u>	<u>0.0813 weight</u>
108	<u>(3) Students enrolled in grades nine through 12</u>	<u>0.0845 weight</u>
109	<u>(4) Career, technical, and agricultural education students</u>	<u>0.0496 weight</u>
110	<u>(5) Students with disabilities – Category A</u>	<u>0.4263 weight</u>
111	<u>(6) Students with disabilities – Category B</u>	<u>0.7401 weight</u>
112	<u>(7) Students with disabilities – Category C</u>	<u>1.8517 weight</u>
113	<u>(8) Students with disabilities – Category D</u>	<u>2.5761 weight</u>
114	<u>(9) Students with disabilities – Category E</u>	<u>5.1056 weight</u>
115	<u>(10) Students identified as intellectually gifted</u>	<u>0.3377 weight</u>
116	<u>(11) Economically disadvantaged students</u>	<u>0.0997 weight</u>
117	<u>(12) English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) program</u>	
118	<u>students</u>	<u>0.2035 weight</u>

119 (c) For purposes of calculating the annual allotment of funds to each local school system,
 120 the program weights may be carried to as many additional decimal places as needed and
 121 may be varied from the weights stated in subsection (b) of this Code section, consistent
 122 with cost-of-living adjustments granted by the General Assembly for salaried and
 123 nonsalaried components, by not more than 1 1/2 percent.

124 (d) The total funds needed for the Quality Basic Education Program for each local school
125 system shall be calculated annually. Such total shall represent the product of the following
126 calculations for each of the programs identified in subsection (b) of this Code section:

127 (1) Multiply the average full-time equivalent program count pursuant to subsection (b)
128 of Code Section 20-2-160 by the respective program weight established in subsection (b)
129 of this Code section;

130 (2) Multiply the product computed in paragraph (1) of this subsection by the base
131 amount as established in the General Appropriations Act; and

132 (3) Add the product computed in paragraph (2) of this subsection to the program
133 adjustment amount for training and experience for the instructional program in
134 accordance with subsection (e) of this Code section.

135 The process and associated components contained within this Code section shall be known
136 as the 'Quality Basic Education Formula.'

137 (e) The State Board of Education shall annually calculate for each instructional program
138 provided for in subsection (b) of this Code section for each local school system the amount
139 of additional funds needed beyond the amounts reflected in the base amount and the
140 program weights, in order to pay the state minimum salaries pursuant to Code
141 Section 20-2-212. The calculation of such additional amount shall be based on all
142 certificated professional personnel who were employed by the local school system as of the
143 month of October for the most recent year that these data are available; provided, however,
144 that the amount needed for training and experience for personnel funded through
145 categorical grants shall only be included in the appropriate categorical grant. The amount
146 shall be reported for each program identified in subsection (b) of this Code section for each
147 full-time equivalent program count date and by segment of the school day and for each

148 categorical program. Such additional amount shall be known as 'program adjustment
149 amount for training and experience' and this amount shall be noted in total in the language
150 section of the General Appropriations Act each year.

151 (f) As the relative costs of the various program components will change over time and as
152 some components will need to be added or removed, the Governor shall appoint a task
153 force every three years for the purposes of reviewing the effectiveness of existing program
154 weights and recommending to the General Assembly any changes needed. This task force
155 shall be comprised of members or staff of the General Assembly, the State Board of
156 Education, the Governor's office, and representatives of local school systems."

157 **SECTION 2.**

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