

House Bill 1082

By: Representatives Martinez of the 111th, Kahaian of the 81st, Chastain of the 7th, Donatucci of the 105th, Clark of the 100th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 holidays and observances, so as to designate November 7 of each year as "Victims of
3 Communism Day"; to provide for observances; to require certain public school students to
4 receive related instruction; to provide legislative findings; to provide for related matters; to
5 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 The General Assembly finds that:

9 (1) Over 100 years have passed since the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia and the
10 formation of the first communist government under Vladimir Lenin, leading to decades of
11 oppression and violence under communist regimes throughout the world;

12 (2) Based on the economic philosophies of Karl Marx, communism has proven
13 incompatible with the ideals of liberty, prosperity, and dignity of human life and has given
14 rise to such infamous totalitarian dictators as Joseph Stalin, Vladimir Lenin, Mao Zedong,
15 János Kádár, Fidel Castro, Hugo Chávez, Daniel Ortega, Ho Chi Minh, Wojciech
16 Jaruzelski, and Pol Pot;

- 17 (3) Communist regimes worldwide have killed more than 100 million people and subjected
18 countless others to exploitation and unspeakable atrocities, with victims representing many
19 different ethnicities, creeds, and backgrounds;
- 20 (4) Through false promises of equality and liberation or through coercion, brutality, and
21 fear, communist regimes have systematically robbed their own citizens of the rights to
22 freedom of worship, freedom of speech, and freedom of association;
- 23 (5) Many victims of communism were persecuted as political prisoners for speaking out
24 against these regimes, and others were killed in genocidal state sponsored purges of
25 undesirable groups;
- 26 (6) In addition to violating basic human rights, communist regimes have suppressed
27 intellectual freedom, cultural life, and self-determination movements in numerous nations;
28 and
- 29 (7) The State of Georgia is home to many of these freedom-loving victims and their
30 descendants from across the world who came to this great state in pursuit of the American
31 Dream.

32 SECTION 2.

33 Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to holidays and
34 observances, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

35 "1-4-28.

36 (a) November 7 of each year is designated as 'Victims of Communism Day' in Georgia.

37 (b) The Governor may annually issue a proclamation designating November 7 as 'Victims
38 of Communism Day,' which shall be suitably observed:

39 (1) By public exercise at the state capitol and elsewhere as the Governor may designate;
40 and

41 (2)(A) In the public elementary and secondary schools of the state as a day of honoring
42 the 100 million people who have fallen victim to communist regimes across the world;

43 provided, however, that, if November 7 falls on a day that is not a school day, Victims
44 of Communism Day shall be observed in such schools on the preceding school day or
45 on such other school day as may be designated by local boards of education and other
46 governing bodies lawfully responsible for the control and management of a public
47 elementary or secondary school.

48 (B) Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year and continuing each school year
49 thereafter, students in grades nine through 12 who are enrolled in a course which covers
50 civics and government as part of a core academic course, as determined by the State
51 Board of Education, or which covers the founding philosophy and principles of the
52 United States of America as provided for in Code Section 20-2-142.1, shall receive at
53 least 45 minutes of instruction on Victims of Communism Day to include topics such
54 as Mao Zedong and the Cultural Revolution, Joseph Stalin and the Soviet System, Fidel
55 Castro and the Cuban Revolution, Vladimir Lenin and the Russian Revolution, Pol Pot
56 and the Khmer Rouge, and Nicolás Maduro and the Chavismo movement, and how
57 victims suffered under these regimes through poverty, starvation, migration, systemic
58 lethal violence, and suppression of speech."

59 **SECTION 3.**

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