

House Bill 1284

By: Representatives Silcox of the 53rd, Burns of the 159th, Parrish of the 158th, Erwin of the 32nd, Donatucci of the 105th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to local boards of education, so as to provide for the awarding of high school
3 diplomas to high school students who are at the end of life; to provide for waivers; to provide
4 for posthumous awarding of such diplomas; to provide for policies, rules, and regulations;
5 to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and
6 for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to local
10 boards of education, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

11 "20-2-70.1.

12 Each local board of education shall issue a high school diploma to a student enrolled in a
13 high school program who has a medical diagnosis of a terminal condition and is receiving
14 end-of-life care. The parent or guardian of any such student shall submit to the appropriate
15 local school superintendent a written request for a high school diploma to be awarded to
16 the student prior to the end of his or her life. Such written request shall include

17 documentation from the student's medical provider stating the student's end-of-life health
18 status. Within 14 calendar days of receiving such written request, the local board of
19 education shall petition the State Board of Education to waive the requirements of high
20 school graduation credits for the student. Upon approval of such waiver by the State Board
21 of Education, the local board of education shall award a high school diploma to the student.
22 Although every effort should be made for the high school diploma to be awarded to the
23 student before the end of his or her life, high school diplomas may be posthumously
24 awarded pursuant to this Code section. The State Board of Education shall adopt any
25 policies, rules, or regulations necessary to ensure prompt compliance with this Code
26 section."

27 **SECTION 2.**

28 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.