

Senate Bill 171

By: Senators Anavitarte of the 31st, Hickman of the 4th, Burns of the 23rd, Kemp of the 38th, Payne of the 54th and others

AS PASSED SENATE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Part 3 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to educational programs under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as
3 to require the State Board of Education to develop an advanced mathematics pathway; to
4 require the state board to adopt policies related to such advanced mathematics pathway; to
5 authorize local school systems to offer the advanced mathematics pathway in grades three
6 through five; to require local school systems to offer the advanced mathematics pathway in
7 grades six through eight; to provide for reporting; to authorize local school systems to
8 provide related supports and services; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
9 laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 Part 3 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
13 relating to educational programs under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended by
14 adding a new Code section to read as follows:

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15 "20-2-159.6.

16 (a) On or before January 1, 2027, the State Board of Education shall develop an advanced
17 mathematics pathway for grades three through eight which culminates in students taking
18 a high school level mathematics course in middle school and shall adopt policies for such
19 advanced mathematics pathway. Such policies shall:

20 (1) Provide for criteria for students to qualify for such advanced mathematics pathway;

21 (2) Provide for the automatic enrollment of qualifying students in such advanced
22 mathematics pathway for grades six through eight;

23 (3) Permit the parent or guardian of a student who qualifies for automatic enrollment to
24 opt his or her child out of such automatic enrollment;

25 (4) Permit the parent or guardian of a student who does not qualify for automatic
26 enrollment to enroll such student in such advanced mathematics pathway if such student
27 scored above the fiftieth percentile statewide on the end-of-grade assessment in
28 mathematics in the school year immediately preceding the school year in which such
29 student intends to enroll in such advanced mathematics pathway; and

30 (5) Require that information be provided to students and parents or guardians on the
31 advanced mathematics pathway and enrollment in such advanced mathematics pathway.

32 (b)(1) Each local school system shall be authorized to offer the advanced mathematics
33 pathway developed by the State Board of Education in grades three through five. Such
34 local school systems shall be authorized to offer additional supports and services to
35 students enrolled in such pathway and to teachers who provide instruction to students in
36 the advanced mathematics pathway.

37 (2) Each local school system shall offer the advanced mathematics pathway developed
38 by the State Board of Education in grades six through eight.

39 (3) Each local school system shall be authorized to offer additional supports and services
40 to students enrolled in the advanced mathematics pathway.

41 (c) The Department of Education shall submit a report by December 1 of each year to the
42 Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
43 chairperson of the Senate Education and Youth Committee, and the chairperson of the
44 House Committee on Education. Such report shall include the following information from
45 each local school system from the preceding school year disaggregated by ethnicity, sex,
46 socioeconomic status, disability, language proficiency, grade level, and school, as
47 applicable:

48 (1) The number of students who qualified for automatic enrollment in the advanced
49 mathematics pathway and were automatically enrolled in the advanced mathematics
50 pathway;

51 (2) The number of students who qualified for automatic enrollment in the advanced
52 mathematics pathway and opted out of such automatic enrollment;

53 (3) The number of students who did not qualify for automatic enrollment and enrolled
54 in the advanced mathematics pathway;

55 (4) A list of courses offered as part of the advanced mathematics pathway and any
56 related services or supports offered to students; and

57 (5) The scores on the end-of-grade assessment in mathematics for each category of
58 students listed in paragraphs (1) through (3) of this subsection."

59 **SECTION 2.**

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