

House Bill 1023 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Efration of the 104th, Burns of the 159th, Erwin of the 32nd, Hatchett of the 155th, Persinger of the 119th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 27 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to loitering at or disrupting schools, so as to require local boards of education and
3 other public school governing bodies to utilize weapon detection systems to aid in the
4 prevention of any individual attempting to unlawfully possess or carry a weapon in certain
5 school buildings; to provide for exceptions; to authorize the use of funding; to provide for
6 a definition; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal
7 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Article 27 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
11 loitering at or disrupting schools, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as
12 follows:

13 "20-2-1187.

14 (a) As used in this Code section the term 'weapon detection system' means a security
15 technology or integrated set of devices designed to detect, through electronic, visual, or
16 analytical means the presence of weapons, including, but not limited to, firearms and

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17 hazardous objects, as such terms are defined in Code Section 20-2-751. Such system shall
18 be capable of detecting the presence of weapons irrespective of whether such weapons are
19 carried by or otherwise in the possession or control of an individual.

20 (b) Each local board of education and other public school governing body shall utilize one
21 or more weapon detection systems to aid in the prevention of any individual attempting to
22 unlawfully possess or carry a weapon in any permanent building that is owned by or leased
23 to a local board of education or other public school governing body where students are
24 present in accordance with routine school operations and procedures. A weapon detection
25 system shall, at a minimum, be utilized at all main points of entry to such permanent
26 buildings, as provided in school safety plans required under Code Section 20-2-1185;
27 provided, however, that a weapon detection system shall not be required for any point of
28 entry to or exit from such permanent buildings that remains locked, is equipped with an
29 alarm, and is not intended for student use or is intended for student use only on an
30 emergency basis, including, but not limited to, any designated emergency exit.

31 (c) Each local board of education and other public school governing body shall be
32 authorized to use available grants and other funding to meet the requirements of this Code
33 section."

34 **SECTION 2.**

35 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2027.

36 **SECTION 3.**

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