

House Bill 1626

By: Representative Lim of the 99th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 10 of Article 17 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to professional standards for elementary and secondary school teachers
3 and other school personnel, so as to require the Professional Standards Commission to
4 recommend to the board of regents and to private colleges and universities that teacher
5 education programs include mandatory coursework in instruction related to English language
6 learners and English for speakers of other languages (ESOL); to provide for related matters;
7 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Part 10 of Article 17 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
11 relating to professional standards for elementary and secondary school teachers and other
12 school personnel, is amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-984, relating
13 to Professional Standards Commission — authority to create and implement standards and
14 procedures for certifying educational personnel, recommending standards and procedures for
15 certification, continuation of teaching certificates, and restrictions, as follows:

16 "(b) The commission shall recommend to the board of regents and private colleges and
17 universities standards and procedures for preparing educational personnel to qualify for
18 initial and renewable certification to practice in the public schools of Georgia, including
19 the following:

20 (1) Pre-service preparation;

21 (2) Approval of teacher education programs, both graduate and undergraduate, which
22 shall include, at a minimum, mandatory coursework in:

23 (A) Differentiated instruction, including the development and implementation of
24 explicit curricula to effectively support and deliver differentiated instruction to students.

25 As used in this subparagraph, the term 'differentiated instruction' means instruction that
26 demonstrates a teacher's recognition of students as individuals in terms of their abilities,
27 achievement, learning styles, and needs, including, but not limited to, at-risk students,
28 English language learners, students with special needs, and gifted students, and that
29 gives greater emphasis to individualization in teaching by making adjustments to
30 curricula, materials, learning activities, and assessment techniques to ensure that all
31 students in a mixed-ability classroom can have equal access to appropriate avenues for
32 processing new information and developing skills; ~~and~~

33 (B) Instruction related to the development of fundamental reading skills, including
34 phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension; and

35 (C) Instruction related to English language learners and English for speakers of other
36 languages (ESOL), including, but not limited to, theories of first and second language
37 acquisition, the connections between language and culture in local and global contexts,
38 and classroom methodology and practice;

39 (3) Approval of programs of alternative certification; and

40 (4) The creation of innovative programs designed to increase the number of minority
41 teachers entering the profession, including, but not limited to, programs designed to

42 promote increased student enrollment in and completion of teacher education programs
43 offered at historically black colleges and universities in this state."

44 **SECTION 2.**

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