

House Bill 273

By: Representatives Douglas of the 78th, Evans of the 42nd, Setzler of the 35th, Strickland of the 111th, Frye of the 118th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 15 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to miscellaneous provisions under the "Quality Basic Education Act,"
3 so as to provide for a daily recess for students in kindergarten and grades one through five;
4 to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Part 15 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
8 relating to miscellaneous provisions under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended
9 in Code Section 20-2-323, relating to unstructured break time for students in kindergarten
10 through grade eight, as follows:

11 "20-2-323.

12 (a) Beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, each local board of education shall schedule
13 a daily recess for students in kindergarten and grades one through five. Such recess shall
14 include at least 30 minutes of supervised, unstructured activity time, preferably outdoors.
15 Local boards of education shall establish policies to ensure that recess is a safe experience
16 for students, that recess is scheduled so that it provides a break during academic learning,
17 and that recess is not used as a punishment.

18 (b) Each ~~By January 1, 2005, each~~ local board of education shall establish written policies
19 allowing or prohibiting unstructured break time for students in ~~kindergarten and grades one~~
20 ~~six~~ through eight. If the policies allow one or more breaks, the policies shall include but
21 shall not be limited to the following matters:

- 22 (1) The school personnel who will be authorized to decide the length, frequency, timing,
23 and location of breaks;
- 24 (2) Whether breaks can be withheld from students for disciplinary or academic reasons
25 and, if breaks can be withheld, under what conditions;

26 (3) How to ensure break time is a safe experience for students, including the
27 responsibility for supervision of students; and

28 (4) How to ensure that break time is scheduled so as to provide a support for academic
29 learning.

30 Local boards shall provide a copy of such policies to the State Board of Education."

31 **SECTION 2.**

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