

House Bill 356

By: Representatives Bazemore of the 69th, Beverly of the 143rd, Park of the 107th, and Hugley of the 141st

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 2 of Article 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to student discipline, so as to prohibit the use of corporal punishment by
3 school administrators, teachers, and other school personnel with any student in any public
4 school of this state; to require the State Board of Education and the Department of Education
5 to provide for minimum standards and model student codes of conduct which address
6 appropriate methods for redirecting students whose behavior is dangerous or disruptive; to
7 provide for a definition; to provide for limited immunity for school administrators, teachers,
8 and other school personnel for the good faith use of reasonable and necessary physical
9 contact with a student under certain circumstances; to provide for implementation; to provide
10 for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

12 **SECTION 1.**

13 Part 2 of Article 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
14 relating to student discipline, is amended by repealing Subpart 1, relating to corporal
15 punishment, and by redesignating Subpart 1A, relating to improved student learning
16 environment and discipline, as Subpart 1.

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SECTION 2.

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18 Said part is further amended in Code Section 20-2-735, relating to adoption of policies by
19 local boards to improve student learning environment, by revising subsection (a) and adding
20 a new subsection to read as follows:

21 "(a) No later than ~~July 1, 2000~~ October 1, 2023, each local board of education shall adopt
22 policies designed to improve the student learning environment by improving student
23 behavior and discipline. These policies shall provide for the development of
24 age-appropriate student codes of conduct containing standards of behavior, a student
25 support process, a progressive discipline process, and a parental involvement process. The
26 State Board of Education shall establish minimum standards for such local board policies.
27 The Department of Education shall make available for utilization by each local board of
28 education model student codes of conduct, a model student support process, a model
29 progressive discipline process, and a model parental involvement process. Such minimum
30 standards and model student codes of conduct shall address appropriate methods for
31 redirecting students whose behavior is dangerous or disruptive."

32 "(g)(1) It is the policy of this state that corporal punishment shall not be administered to
33 any student in any public school in this state. As used in this subsection, the term
34 'corporal punishment' means the deliberate use of physical contact or infliction of pain
35 by a school administrator, teacher, or other school personnel on a student for the purpose
36 of punishing or disciplining such student. Such term shall not include the use of brief,
37 limited, age-appropriate, nonpunitive, and noninjurious physical contact with a student
38 for the purpose of redirecting such student to promote student safety, providing physical
39 guidance to or prompting a student when teaching a skill, guiding a student to a particular
40 location, or providing comfort to a student.

41 (2) No school administrator, teacher, or other school personnel shall be held accountable
42 or liable in any criminal or civil action based upon the good faith use of reasonable and
43 necessary physical contact with a student for the purpose of protecting or attempting to

44 protect himself, herself, or another from an actual or imminent threat to his or her health
45 or safety or the health or safety of another."

46 **SECTION 3.**

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