

House Bill 414

By: Representatives Kennard of the 102nd, Lopez Romero of the 99th, Carter of the 92nd, McLeod of the 105th, and Clark of the 108th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 elementary and secondary education, so as to provide for mandatory kindergarten for all
3 children prior to entering into first grade; to lower the age of compulsory school attendance
4 from six years old to five years old; to provide for related matters; to provide for contingent
5 effectiveness; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and
9 secondary education, is amended in Code Section 20-2-150, relating to eligibility for
10 enrollment for educational programs, by revising subsection (c) as follows:

11 "(c) All children enrolled for 20 school days or more in the public schools of this state
12 prior to their ~~seventh~~ fifth birthday shall become subject to all of the provisions of this
13 article, the provisions of Code Sections 20-2-690 through 20-2-701, and the rules and
14 regulations of the State Board of Education relating to compulsory school attendance even
15 though they have not attained ~~seven~~ five years of age."

16 **SECTION 2.**

17 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 20-2-151, relating to general and career
18 education programs, by revising paragraph (1) of subsection (b) as follows:

19 "(1)(A) All local school systems ~~may~~ shall offer a full-day kindergarten program. For
20 purposes of this subsection, the term 'full-day kindergarten program' means a student
21 is provided classroom instruction for a minimum of four and one-half hours daily for
22 a 180 day school year, or the equivalent thereof as determined in accordance with State
23 Board of Education guidelines.

24 (B) It is the policy of this state that all children shall attend kindergarten for one school
25 year prior to enrolling in first grade and that the purposes of the kindergarten program

26 shall be to provide all children with an equal opportunity to become prepared for a
27 successful first grade experience and to acquire the foundation for academic progress
28 throughout the students' educational careers. To be eligible for enrollment in a state
29 supported kindergarten program, a child must attain the age of five by September 1,
30 except as otherwise provided by subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-150;"

31 **SECTION 3.**

32 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 20-2-690.1, relating to mandatory education
33 for children between the ages of six and 16, by revising subsection (a) as follows:

34 "(a) Mandatory attendance in a public school, private school, or home school program shall
35 be required for children between their ~~sixth~~ fifth and sixteenth birthdays. Such mandatory
36 attendance shall not be required where the child has successfully completed all
37 requirements for a high school diploma."

38 **SECTION 4.**

39 This Act shall become effective only upon the effective date of a specific appropriation of
40 funds for purposes of this Act, as expressed in a line item making specific reference to such
41 Act in a General Appropriations Act enacted by the General Assembly.

42 **SECTION 5.**

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