

House Bill 646

By: Representatives Schofield of the 63<sup>rd</sup>, Scott of the 76<sup>th</sup>, and Davis of the 87<sup>th</sup>

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 prohibit public schools and local school systems that receive state funding under the  
4 "Quality Basic Education Act" from using Native American names, symbols, or images as  
5 school mascots, logos, or team names; to provide for the State Board of Education to  
6 establish a grant program to provide transitional support to public schools and local school  
7 systems that incur costs in order to comply with such prohibition; to provide for qualified  
8 costs under such grant program; to provide for legislative findings and intent; to provide for  
9 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

13 (1) The use of racially derogatory or discriminatory school mascots, logos, or team names  
14 in Georgia public schools is antithetical to their mission of providing an equal education  
15 to all and contrary to the goal of making schools safe and respectful learning environments;

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16 (2) Certain mascots, logos, or team names that are or have been used by schools are  
17 uniquely discriminatory in singling out the Native American community for derision and  
18 cultural appropriation;

19 (3) Although the inappropriate use of Native American names, symbols, or images may  
20 be premised on the promotion of unity or school spirit, their use fails to respect the cultural  
21 heritage of Native Americans and promote productive relationships between sovereign  
22 governments;

23 (4) Numerous individuals and organizations, including the United States Commission on  
24 Civil Rights, have concluded that the use of Native American images and names in school  
25 sports is a barrier to equality and understanding and that all residents of the United States  
26 would benefit from the discontinuance of their use; and

27 (5) No public school in this state has a cognizable interest in retaining a racially derogatory  
28 or discriminatory school mascot, logo, or team name.

29 (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly to prohibit the inappropriate use of Native  
30 American names, symbols, or images.

31 **SECTION 2.**

32 Part 15 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
33 relating to miscellaneous provisions under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended  
34 by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

35 "20-2-324.7.

36 (a) Beginning July 1, 2023, no public school which receives funding under this article shall  
37 use Native American names, symbols, or images as school mascots, logos, or team names.

38 (b)(1) Subject to appropriations by the General Assembly, the State Board of Education  
39 shall establish a grant program to provide transitional support grants to public schools and  
40 local school systems that incur costs as a result of compliance with subsection (a) of this  
41 Code section.

- 42 (2) Costs eligible for use by grants provided under this subsection are costs resulting  
43 from the replacement or redesign of items and materials that display Native American  
44 names, symbols, or images, including, but not limited to:
- 45 (A) Uniforms and equipment used by a team, band, or cheer squad or for another  
46 extracurricular activity;
  - 47 (B) School signage, including, but not limited to, reader boards and scoreboards;
  - 48 (C) Floor designs in gymnasiums or other flooring or surfaces;
  - 49 (D) School or school system letterhead and other office supplies; and
  - 50 (E) School or school system web pages."

51 **SECTION 3.**

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