

House Bill 710

By: Representatives Kennard of the 102nd, Clark of the 108th, Park of the 101st, Mitchell of the 106th, Moore of the 95th, and others

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 Halal dietary selections as part of
3 school breakfast and lunch programs; to provide for excused absences for certain Islamic
4 holidays based upon sincerely held religious beliefs; to provide for a short title; to provide
5 for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Muslim Student Recognition Act."

9 **SECTION 2.**

10 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and
11 secondary education, is amended in Code Section 20-2-66, relating to school breakfast
12 programs, by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

13 "(c) In each school where a school breakfast program is established as provided for in
14 subsection (a) of this Code section, Halal dietary selections shall be made available to
15 students on whose behalf a written request has been made to the school principal by such

16 student's parent or guardian. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules and
17 regulations which establish the variety and nutritional requirements for such dietary
18 selections."

19 **SECTION 3.**

20 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 20-2-187, relating to state-wide school
21 lunch program, instruction in nutrition, hygiene, etiquette, and social graces, and school food
22 and nutrition personnel, by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

23 "(d) In each school lunch program provided for under this Code section, Halal dietary
24 selections shall be made available to students on whose behalf a written request has been
25 made to the student's school principal by the student's parent or guardian, or by the student
26 in the case of students who have reached the age of 18. The State Board of Education shall
27 promulgate rules and regulations which establish the variety and nutritional requirements
28 for such dietary selections."

29 **SECTION 4.**

30 Said chapter is further amended in Subpart 2 of Part 1 of Article 16, relating to compulsory
31 attendance, by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

32 "20-2-692.3.
33 Local school systems may reasonably accommodate students who observe the Islamic
34 holidays Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adah according to sincerely held religious beliefs by
35 allowing such students one excused absence for each such holiday."

36 **SECTION 5.**

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