

The House Committee on Education offers the following substitute to HB 718:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Subpart 2 of Part 1 of Article 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of
2 Georgia Annotated, relating to compulsory attendance, so as to excuse certain absences of
3 students with parents in service of the armed forces of the United States, the Reserves, or the
4 National Guard or veterans of same; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Subpart 2 of Part 1 of Article 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
8 Annotated, relating to compulsory attendance, is amended by revising Code Section
9 20-2-692.1, relating to excused absences for days missed to visit with parent or legal
10 guardian in the military prior to deployment or while on leave, as follows:

11 "20-2-692.1.

12 (a) A student whose parent or legal guardian is in military service in the armed forces of
13 the United States or the National Guard, and such parent or legal guardian has been called
14 to duty for or is on leave from overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat support
15 posting, shall be granted excused absences, up to a maximum of five school days per
16 school year, for the day or days missed from school to visit with his or her parent or legal
17 guardian prior to such parent's or legal guardian's deployment or during such parent's or
18 legal guardian's leave. ~~Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to require a local~~
19 ~~school system to revise any policies relating to maximum number of excused and~~
20 ~~unexcused absences for any purposes.~~

21 (b) A student whose parent or legal guardian is currently serving or previously served on
22 active duty in the armed forces of the United States, in the Reserves of the armed forces of
23 the United States on extended active duty, or in the National Guard on extended active duty
24 may be granted excused absences, up to a maximum of five school days per school year,
25 not to exceed two school years, for the day or days missed from school to attend military

26 affairs sponsored events, provided the student provides documentation prior to absence
27 from:
28 (1) A provider of care at or sponsored by a medical facility of the United States
29 Department of Veterans Affairs; or
30 (2) An event sponsored by a corporation exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(19)
31 of the Internal Revenue Code.
32 (c) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to require a local school system to
33 revise any policies relating to maximum number of excused and unexcused absences for
34 any purposes."

35 **SECTION 2.**

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