

The Senate Education and Youth Committee offered the following substitute to HB 886:

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 that local boards of education and
3 certain charter schools shall hold at least two public meetings on the proposed annual
4 operating budget; to require that a summary of the proposed and adopted annual operating
5 budget be posted on the Internet; to provide that the detailed annual operating budget shall
6 be made available upon request; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and
7 for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and
11 secondary education, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

12 "20-2-167.1.

13 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

14 (1) 'Governing body' means the board, governing council, governing board, or other
15 entity by whatever name responsible for creating and implementing the budget of a local
16 education agency.

17 (2) 'Local education agency' means any local school system and any charter school
18 subject to the provisions of Chapter 2 of this title, except this shall not include college
19 and career academies that are charter schools; conversion charter schools, as defined in
20 Code Section 20-2-2062, whose charter is not held by a nonprofit corporation; or system
21 charter schools, as defined in Code Section 20-2-2062.

22 (b) Each governing body shall hold at least two public meetings for the purpose of
23 providing an opportunity for public input on its proposed annual operating budget before
24 adopting any budget; provided, however, that any other public meeting or hearing held that
25 is related to the budget as required by law shall satisfy all or a portion of such requirement.
26 The governing body of a charter school with a state-wide attendance zone shall conduct

27 one such public meeting in the county in which its primary business office is located and
28 one such public meeting in the metropolitan Atlanta area. Such meetings shall be held in
29 accordance with Chapter 14 of Title 50, relating to open and public meetings.

30 (c) A summary of the annual operating budget proposed by the governing board and the
31 annual operating budget adopted by the governing board shall be posted on a publicly
32 available area of such governing body's website. The summary of the annual operating
33 budget adopted by the governing body shall be maintained on such publicly available area
34 of the website until the annual operating budget for the next fiscal year is adopted by the
35 governing body. In the event a governing body elects to post the line item detailed
36 proposed and adopted annual operating budgets on a publicly available area of its website,
37 it shall be deemed in compliance with this subsection.

38 (d) Each governing body shall provide to any person upon request an electronic copy of
39 the line item detailed adopted annual operating budget in a format suitable for analysis at
40 no cost within three days upon request, and the summary of the budget required by
41 subsection (c) of this Code section shall give notice of that right.

42 (e) The provisions of this Code section shall not be construed to apply to the operating
43 budget or accounting records of a nonprofit corporation itself that operates a charter
44 school."

45 **SECTION 2.**

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