

Senate Bill 162

By: Senators Jones of the 10th, Jackson of the 2nd, Henson of the 41st, Tate of the 38th,  
Sims of the 12th 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 enact the "Parent Charter School Trigger Act";  
3 to provide for petitions to convert charter schools to traditional public schools; to provide for  
4 definitions; to allow for petitions by parents; to provide for notice to the State Board of  
5 Education; to provide for local board approval; to provide for rules and regulations; to  
6 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Parent Charter School Trigger Act."

10 **SECTION 2.**

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

13 "ARTICLE 35

14 20-2-2200.

15 As used in this article, the term:

16 (1) 'Petition' means a petition submitted pursuant to this article.

17 (2) 'Petitioning group' means parents or legal guardians submitting a petition pursuant  
18 to subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-2201.

19 20-2-2201.

20 (a) A petition may be submitted to convert any charter school to a traditional public school  
21 in accordance with the provisions of this article, beginning with school year 2014-2015.

22 (b) A petition may be submitted by a majority of the parents or legal guardians of students  
23 who are eligible to enroll in the school the following year, or for a high school cluster, a  
24 majority of the parents or guardians of students who are eligible to enroll in one of the  
25 schools within the high school cluster the following year, as evidenced by the signatures  
26 of more than 50 percent of such parents or guardians. For purposes of this subsection, only  
27 one parent or guardian per student and such student's siblings shall be entitled to indicate  
28 their approval by signature and parents or guardians signing the petition shall also indicate  
29 the student or students in their household.

30 (c) Signatures for petitions under this Code section shall be collected on a standard form  
31 or forms established by the state board.

32 (d) Parents and legal guardians shall be free from harassment, threats, or intimidation  
33 related to circulation or signature of a petition, discouraging such persons from signing a  
34 petition or revoking a signature.

35 20-2-2202.

36 A petition may be submitted to a local board of education by a petitioning group pursuant  
37 to subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-2201 to convert a charter school to a traditional  
38 public school.

39 20-2-2203.

40 (a) The local board shall notify the state board upon receipt of a petition and upon its final  
41 disposition of such petition.

42 (b) Upon receipt of a petition, a local board shall have no more than 30 days to review and  
43 verify the signatures on such petition. In the event that the local board does not complete  
44 such verification within 30 days, such petition shall be deemed verified for purposes of this  
45 article.

46 (c) Upon verification of signatures on a petition submitted pursuant to Code Section  
47 20-2-2202, the local board shall give written notice within ten days to the petitioning group  
48 of such verification and shall review the charter in question to determine whether it may  
49 be terminated.

50 20-2-2204.

51 (a) Any school that is converted to a traditional public school pursuant to this article shall  
52 continue to serve the attendance boundary and to serve all the students who attended the  
53 school in the school year prior to the conversion.

54 (b) Any parent or legal guardian who does not want their child to attend a school that has  
55 been converted to a traditional public school pursuant to this article shall have the right to  
56 enroll their child in another local school within the school system.

57 20-2-2205.

58 The state board shall promulgate rules and regulations with respect to timelines, petitions,  
59 and other applicable procedures to facilitate the implementation of this article."

60 **SECTION 3.**

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