

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth offered the following substitute to SB 240:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to competencies and core curriculum, so as to provide for an instructional
3 program for students in grades eleven and twelve which covers the critical role elections play
4 in the democratic way of life for people in Georgia and the United States; to provide for
5 conditioning graduation on completion of such instructional program; to provide for the
6 development of standards and training; to provide for a pilot program for demonstrations of
7 current voting equipment in selected school systems; to provide for applicability; to provide
8 for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
12 relating to competencies and core curriculum, is amended by adding a new Code section to
13 read as follows:

14 "20-2-142.2.

15 (a)(1) Each local board of education may require all students, as a condition of
16 graduation, during their eleventh or twelfth grade years to complete an instructional

17 program on the critical role elections play in the democratic way of life for people in
18 Georgia and the United States.

19 (2) Such program shall cover electoral systems and processes in general and shall include
20 demonstrations of Georgia's current voting processes to be provided as follows:

21 (A) The Secretary of State, working in collaboration with the Department of Education,
22 local boards or education, and local elections officials, shall pilot a program during the
23 2021-2022 school year in which current voting equipment, including functional replicas
24 thereof, is presented for in-school demonstration to and use by students participating
25 in the instructional program provided for in paragraph (1) of this subsection. Such pilot
26 program shall involve two local school systems in this state selected by the Secretary
27 of State. One such local school system shall be from an urban area of the state, and the
28 other shall be from a rural area of the state. No later than October 1, 2022, the
29 Secretary of State shall provide to the Senate Education and Youth Committee a report
30 on the pilot program and recommendations regarding whether to continue, expand, or
31 otherwise modify the program; or

32 (B) For local school systems that are not selected for the pilot program as provided for
33 in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, the demonstrations of current voting processes
34 required by this paragraph may be provided through means other than the use of current
35 voting equipment.

36 (3) Such program may include providing instructional support to students in the process
37 of becoming a registered voter.

38 (4) Such program may be provided within the framework of existing coursework offered
39 by a local school system.

40 (b) The Department of Education, in collaboration with local boards of education and the
41 Secretary of State, may provide standards and teacher training to ensure that the intent and
42 provisions of this Code section are implemented. Local boards of education shall not be
43 required to adopt all or part of the standards and teacher training provided by the

44 Department of Education; provided, however, that local boards of education shall ensure
45 that the intent and provisions of this Code section are implemented. This Code section shall
46 apply beginning in the 2021-2022 school year."

47

SECTION 2.

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