

The Senate Committee on Education & Youth offered the following substitute to SB 96:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-2-984 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
2 Professional Standards Commission's authority to create and implement standards and  
3 procedures for certifying educational personnel, recommending standards and procedures for  
4 certification, continuation of teaching certificates, and restrictions, so as to provide that the  
5 commission's standards and procedures for certification programs shall be neutral with  
6 respect to whether such programs are provided by for profit or not for profit entities and shall  
7 consider teacher programs outside of this state which meet certain requirements of the  
8 commission; to provide 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 Code Section 20-2-984 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
12 Professional Standards Commission's authority to create and implement standards and  
13 procedures for certifying educational personnel, recommending standards and procedures for  
14 certification, continuation of teaching certificates, and restrictions, is amended by revising  
15 subsection (a) as follows:

16 "(a) The commission shall create and implement standards and procedures for certifying  
17 educational personnel as qualified for a certificate to practice in the public schools of  
18 Georgia; provided, however, that such standards and procedures shall not require an  
19 individual to participate in or complete any training program in which divisive concepts,  
20 as such term is defined in Code Section 20-1-11, are advocated for; and provided, further,  
21 that such standards shall include the following:

22 (1) Procedures for limiting the number and types of certificates to the fewest possible  
23 consistent with providing qualified teachers for Georgia's schools;

24 (2) In-service training and related requirements needed to renew or maintain  
25 certification;

26 (3) Multiple or alternative routes to professional teacher certification, including, but not  
27 limited to, the alternative and nontraditional teacher certification programs provided for  
28 in Code Section 20-2-206; provided, however, that the commission's standards and  
29 procedures shall:

30 (A) Be neutral with respect to whether such teacher certification programs are provided  
31 by for profit or not for profit entities; and

32 (B) Consider for in state certification nationally accredited teacher certification  
33 programs outside of this state which are state sponsored and meet academic  
34 accreditation and certification requirements of the Professional Standards Commission;  
35 and

36 (4) Requirements, including appropriate examinations and assessments, for acquiring and  
37 maintaining certification pursuant to Code Section 20-2-200."

38 **SECTION 2.**

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