

House Bill 1133

By: Representatives Mainor of the 56th and Lim of the 98th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 7 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to staff development under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to
3 require training programs for local boards of education to include certain provisions; to
4 require annual completion of such training program; to require such program to be delivered
5 by certain providers; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
6 purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Part 7 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
10 relating to staff development under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended by
11 revising subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-230, relating to programs, as follows:

12 "(b)(1) The State Board of Education shall adopt a training program for members of local
13 boards of education by July 1, ~~2011~~ 2023. The State Board of Education may
14 periodically adopt revisions to such training program as it deems necessary; provided,
15 however, that such training program shall include, but not be limited to, the code of ethics
16 provided for by Code Section 20-2-72; conflicts of interest provisions applicable to

17 members of local boards of education; best practices for local boards of education on
18 school level governance, including, but not limited to, final decision-making authority in
19 personnel decisions, financial decisions, curriculum, resource allocation, establishing and
20 monitoring the achievement of school improvement goals, and school operations; the
21 fundamental roles of the board and the local school superintendent; the constitutional and
22 statutory requirements relating to public records and meetings; and the requirements of
23 applicable statutes, rules, and regulations; provided, further, that the training program
24 shall also include two to three hours annually regarding sound fiscal management and
25 monitoring the implementation of the local school system's budget in accordance with
26 state laws and regulations which includes the following elements:

27 (A) Board developed policies to ensure sound fiscal management, including, but not
28 limited to, budget requirements, spending level authorizations and permissions, deficit
29 spending, establishment of special funds, and management of reserve funds;

30 (B) Holding the local school superintendent accountable for the implementation of the
31 budget in a manner consistent with the local school system's strategic plan;

32 (C) Establishing, through policy, the level of spending beyond the budget for which the
33 local school superintendent must seek board approval;

34 (D) Monitoring the local school system's audits, monthly financial reports, and
35 additional financial reports needed to make informed decisions and to ensure execution
36 of the budget in a manner consistent with the strategic plan and strategic goals of the
37 local school system;

38 (E) Reviewing and addressing annually audited financial records and audit findings,
39 with a goal of proactively preventing audit exceptions;

40 (F) Addressing fiscal matters in a manner consistent with state law, sound business
41 practice, and ethical principles regarding conflicts of interest; and

42 (G) Operating in a manner such that the board's financial decisions and actions do not
43 provide unfair financial or other opportunistic advantages to any member of the local
44 board of education, their family members, associates, or individual constituents.

45 (2) Within three months of adoption by the State Board of Education of a training
46 program pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection, each local board of education shall
47 adopt a training program for members of such boards that includes, at a minimum, such
48 training program and requirements established by the State Board of Education pursuant
49 to paragraph (1) of this subsection. Each local board of education shall incorporate any
50 revisions adopted by the State Board of Education to the training program pursuant to
51 paragraph (1) of this subsection within three months of adoption of such revisions.

52 (3) Members of each local board of education shall annually complete the training
53 program provided for in this subsection, and such training program shall be delivered by
54 the Department of Education or a person or organization approved and certified by the
55 Department of Education as having the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities to deliver
56 such training program.

57 ~~(3)~~(4) All local boards of education are authorized to pay such board members for
58 attendance at a required training program the same per diem as authorized by local or
59 general law for attendance at regular meetings, as well as reimbursement of actual
60 expenses for travel, lodging, meals, and registration fees for such training, either before
61 or after such board members assume office."

62 **SECTION 2.**

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