

House Bill 1221

By: Representatives Smith of the 18th, Cox of the 28th, Franklin of the 160th, Wiedower of the 121st, and McDonald of the 26th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-2-293 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 student attending school in system other than system of student's residence, so as to require
3 the State Board of Education to provide for procedures for student transfers between local
4 school systems; to provide that only the receiving local school system shall have the
5 authority to grant or refuse permission for such transfers; to provide for caps on tuition that
6 can be charged to a student by an enrolling local unit of administration; to provide for related
7 matters; to provide for a short title; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Boundless Opportunities for Georgia
11 Students Act."

12 **SECTION 2.**

13 Code Section 20-2-293 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to student
14 attending school in system other than system of student's residence, is amended by revising
15 subsection (a) as follows:

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16 “(a)(1) The provisions of this article and other statutes to the contrary notwithstanding,
17 the State Board of Education ~~is authorized to~~ shall provide a procedure whereby a student
18 ~~shall, for such compelling reasons and circumstances as may be specified by the state~~
19 ~~board,~~ be permitted to attend and to be included as an enrolled student in the public
20 schools of a local unit of administration other than the local unit of administration
21 wherein the student resides for the purpose of allotting state funds under this article,
22 notwithstanding absence of an agreement between the two local units and a refusal by the
23 board of education of the local unit wherein the student resides to approve voluntarily
24 such transfer of the student to the public schools of the other local unit; provided,
25 however, that the board of education of the local unit is willing to receive and to permit
26 such student to enroll in and to attend the public schools of such local unit. The state
27 board shall adopt such rules, regulations, and policies as may be necessary for
28 implementation of this Code section. Grant or refusal of permission for students to attend
29 such schools, for the purpose of permitting state funds to follow such students, shall be
30 ~~entirely discretionary with the state board and shall, in the absence of a clear abuse of~~
31 ~~discretion by the state board, be final and conclusive~~ subject only to approval of the
32 enrolling student and the local unit of administration in which the student seeks to enroll.
33 Local units of administration may contract with each other for the care, education, and
34 transportation of students and for such other activities as they may be authorized by law
35 to perform.

36 (2) Beginning July 1, 2026, and continuing thereafter, if a local unit of administration
37 enrolls a student pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection and requires the student to
38 pay tuition, the amount of tuition such local unit of administration may charge to such
39 student shall not exceed total revenues less federal revenues less state revenues per
40 full-time equivalent student for the local unit of administration that enrolls such student;
41 provided, however, that, if such student's resident school, for the immediately preceding
42 school year, received an individual school rating, as provided for in subsection (d) of

43 Code Section 20-14-33, that is in the lowest 25 percent of all public schools based on
44 such individual school ratings, such student's resident school system shall be responsible
45 for one-half of the total amount of such tuition."

46 **SECTION 3.**

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