

House Bill 59

By: Representatives Glaize of the 67<sup>th</sup>, Evans of the 57<sup>th</sup>, Gilliard of the 162<sup>nd</sup>, Paris of the 142<sup>nd</sup>, and Dawson of the 65<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-2-182 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 program weights to reflect funds for payment of salaries and benefits, maximum class size,  
3 reporting requirements, and application to specific school years, so as to provide for state  
4 funding for one school counselor for every 250 full-time equivalent students; to provide for  
5 related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
6 purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Code Section 20-2-182 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to program  
10 weights to reflect funds for payment of salaries and benefits, maximum class size, reporting  
11 requirements, and application to specific school years, is amended by revising subsection (c)  
12 as follows:

13 "(c) The program weights for the kindergarten, kindergarten early intervention, primary,  
14 primary grades early intervention, upper elementary, upper elementary grades early  
15 intervention, middle school, and alternative education programs and the program weights  
16 for the high school programs authorized pursuant to paragraph (4) of subsection (b) of

17 Code Section 20-2-151, when multiplied by the base amount, shall reflect sufficient funds  
18 to pay the beginning salaries for at least one school counselor for every ~~450~~ 250 full-time  
19 equivalent students. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2015 and thereafter, the program weights  
20 for the English for speakers of other languages program and the programs for persons with  
21 disabilities shall also earn school counselor funding. Further, beginning in Fiscal Year  
22 2016 and thereafter, the program weights for the program for intellectually gifted students  
23 and the remedial education program shall also earn school counselor funding. The duties  
24 and responsibilities for such school counselors shall be established by the state board to  
25 require a minimum of five of the six full-time equivalent program count segments of the  
26 counselor's time to be spent counseling or advising students or parents."

27 **SECTION 2.**

28 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
29 without such approval.

30 **SECTION 3.**

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