

House Bill 899

By: Representatives Davis of the 87th, Mitchell of the 88th, Beverly of the 143rd, Scott of the 76th, Schofield of the 63rd, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 5 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to program weights and funding requirements under the "Quality Basic
3 Education Act," so as to provide for QBE funding assistance to eligible public schools to
4 reduce school violence and improve school safety and security; to provide for eligibility; to
5 provide for the calculation and maximum amount of such funding; to provide for policies,
6 procedures, regulations, and requirements; to provide for a short title; to provide for related
7 matters; to provide for an effective date and applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
8 other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "School Violence Reduction and Safety
12 Funds Act."

13 **SECTION 2.**

14 Part 5 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
15 relating to program weights and funding requirements under the "Quality Basic Education

16 Act," is amended by revising Code Section 20-2-183, relating to program weights to reflect
17 funds for maintenance and operation of facilities, as follows:

18 "20-2-183.

19 (a) All program weights, when multiplied by the base amount, shall reflect sufficient funds
20 to provide for the maintenance and operation of facilities essential for housing instructional
21 programs and essential supportive educational services, subject to appropriation by the
22 General Assembly.

23 (b)(1) All program weights, when multiplied by the base amount, shall reflect sufficient
24 funds to provide funding assistance to reimburse eligible public schools for actual costs
25 incurred to reduce school violence and improve school safety and security. Such funds
26 may be referred to as school violence reduction and safety funds.

27 (2) The State Board of Education shall annually determine the amount of state funds
28 needed to provide funding assistance to eligible public schools as set forth in paragraph
29 (1) of this subsection, subject to the following conditions:

30 (A) No public school shall be considered eligible for such funding assistance unless:

31 (i) It complies with such policies, procedures, regulations, and other requirements as
32 adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to paragraph (3) of this subsection;
33 and

34 (ii) Its school safety plan meets the requirements of Code Section 20-2-1185; and

35 (B) The amount of funding assistance calculated for each eligible public school shall
36 not exceed:

37 (i) One percent of the total amount of funds allotted for such school under this article
38 for the most recently completed school year; or

39 (ii) Fifty percent of the actual costs incurred during the most recently completed
40 school year for the implementation of such school's safety plan; provided, however,
41 that the application of such condition shall be subject to the hardship provisions set
42 forth in subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-1185.

43 (3) The State Board of Education shall adopt policies, procedures, regulations, and other
44 such requirements as appropriate:

45 (A) To determine whether a public school is eligible for funding assistance under this
46 subsection;

47 (B) To establish procedures and requirements for public schools seeking funding
48 assistance under this subsection;

49 (C) To establish procedures for the Department of Education to evaluate requests by
50 public schools for funding assistance under this subsection;

51 (D) To calculate the maximum amount of funding assistance each eligible public
52 school is eligible to receive under this subsection, subject to appropriations by the
53 General Assembly;

54 (E) To annually assess whether and to what extent funding assistance provided to
55 eligible public schools under this subsection is having the intended impact of reducing
56 school violence or improving school safety and security; and

57 (F) As may be necessary to implement the provisions of this subsection."

58 **SECTION 3.**

59 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2024, and shall be applicable beginning with the
60 2025-2026 school year and continuing each school year thereafter.

61 **SECTION 4.**

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