

Senate Bill 464

By: Senators Dixon of the 45th, Payne of the 54th, Still of the 48th, Echols of the 49th,
Anavitarte of the 31st and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 17 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to teachers and other school personnel, so as to establish the School Supplies for
3 Teachers Program, subject to appropriation by the General Assembly and the availability of
4 other funds for such purpose; to provide for a short title; to require the State Board of
5 Education to establish a program for the Department of Education to allocate funds for
6 eligible teachers to purchase school supplies online; to require the State Board of Education
7 to establish policies, rules, and regulations; to provide for the State School Superintendent,
8 in collaboration with the Department of Administrative Services, to identify one or more
9 authorized software services providers to offer and support a user-friendly online ecommerce
10 platform for teachers to purchase school supplies; to require the Department of Education to
11 establish processes for implementation of the program; to provide for teacher eligibility to
12 participate in the program; to provide for local school systems and public schools to certify
13 teacher eligibility; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal
14 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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SECTION 1.

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17 Article 17 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
18 teachers and other school personnel, is amended by adding a new part to read as follows:

19 "Part 13

20 20-2-989.30.

21 This part shall be known and may be cited as the 'School Supplies for Teachers Act.'

22 20-2-989.31.

23 As used in this part, the term:

24 (1) 'Authorized ecommerce vendor' means an ecommerce vendor that has been approved
25 by the Department of Education in accordance with policies, rules, and regulations
26 established by the State Board of Education.

27 (2) 'Ecommerce' means a commercial transaction, which may include the transmission
28 of funds or data or both, conducted electronically via the internet.

29 (3) 'Eligible teacher' means a teacher employed in good standing at a public school in
30 this state pursuant to a school year contract and who has the primary responsibility of
31 providing classroom instruction to students for not less than 60 percent of each school
32 day on average, measured weekly.

33 (4) 'School Supplies for Teachers Program' or 'program' means the program established
34 pursuant to this part to provide financial and technical assistance to eligible teachers who
35 purchase school supplies online as provided in this part.

36 (5) 'School year contract' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code Section
37 20-2-942.

38 (6) 'Teacher' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code Section 20-2-942.

39 (7) 'User' means an eligible teacher who is certified by a participating local school
40 system or public school as eligible to participate in the program and who has a user
41 account.

42 (8) 'User account' means the unique platform account assigned by the Department of
43 Education to each eligible teacher.

44 20-2-989.32.

45 (a) The School Supplies for Teachers Program is established to provide financial and
46 technical assistance to teachers who purchase school supplies online as provided in this
47 part.

48 (b) The requirements of this part shall be subject to appropriation of funds by the General
49 Assembly or the availability of other funds for such purpose.

50 20-2-989.33.

51 (a) The State Board of Education shall:

52 (1) Establish a program for the Department of Education to allocate funds for eligible
53 teachers to be used at the discretion of such teachers for the online purchase of school
54 supplies as provided in this part;

55 (2) Establish such policies, rules, and regulations as necessary for the implementation
56 of this part; and

57 (3) Authorize the State School Superintendent, in collaboration with the Department of
58 Administrative Services, to identify one or more authorized software services providers
59 to offer and support a user-friendly online ecommerce platform that:

60 (A) Processes the allocation of funds by the Department of Education to the user
61 accounts of eligible teachers for the online purchase of school supplies from authorized
62 ecommerce vendors; and

63 (B) Includes appropriate fiscal management and payment systems and reporting and
64 training tools, as required by the State Board of Education.

65 (b) The Department of Education shall:

66 (1) Ensure that purchases using program funds are restricted to online purchases of
67 school supplies from authorized ecommerce vendors;

68 (2) Promulgate guidelines and provide technical assistance to facilitate local school
69 systems, public schools, and teachers utilizing the program and to ensure program
70 purchases are restricted to allowable expenses; and

71 (3) Establish processes as necessary for the implementation of the program consistent
72 with the provisions of this part and with the policies, rules, and regulations of the State
73 Board of Education.

74 (c) Each local school system or public school shall certify, as required by the Department
75 of Education, the eligibility of each teacher employed by such local school system or public
76 school who requests a user account; provided, that to be eligible for a user account a
77 teacher shall be employed in good standing at a public school pursuant to a school year
78 contract and have the primary responsibility of providing classroom instruction to students
79 not less than 60 percent of each school day on average, measured weekly."

80 **SECTION 2.**

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