

Senate Bill 307

By: Senators Hill of the 32nd, Rogers of the 21st and Shafer of the 48th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 elementary and secondary education, so as to enact a bill of rights for Georgia teachers; to
3 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

5 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

6 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and
7 secondary education, is amended by inserting in Subpart 2 of Part 6 of Article 6, relating to
8 conditions of employment for the purposes of the "Quality Basic Education Act," a new Code
9 section to read as follows:

10 "20-2-221.

11 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, each certificated teacher
12 serving in the public schools of Georgia shall have the following rights as a condition of
13 employment:

14 (1) School board members and administrators shall respect the right of a teacher to
15 exercise independent thought and to express constructive criticism in an appropriate and
16 professional manner;

17 (2) If, in the professional judgment of a teacher, a student needs to be removed from the
18 regular classroom environment because the student's misconduct is materially and
19 substantially disrupting the learning processes of the other students, the administrator
20 shall respect the teacher's professional judgment. At the minimum, the student shall not
21 be returned to the classroom on that particular day. The administrator shall not
22 undermine the teacher's authority in the classroom by questioning the teacher's account
23 of what happened in front of one or more students;

24 (3) A teacher has a right to file a grievance about an evaluation if, in the opinion of the
25 teacher, the evaluation was unfair, false, or retaliatory for the exercise of a right granted
26 by this Code section;

27 (4) Each teacher shall be afforded the opportunity to participate in an annual evaluation
28 of each administrator at his or her school. These evaluations shall be conducted in a way
29 that assures each teacher complete confidentiality and anonymity. These evaluations
30 shall be forwarded to the superintendent who in turn shall send copies of all the
31 evaluations to each school board member;

32 (5) The teacher of the year at each school shall be nominated and selected solely by the
33 anonymous votes of the teachers at the school;

34 (6) A teacher shall be permitted to have an individual of the teacher's choosing present
35 in any disciplinary proceeding or conference; a teacher shall, except in extraordinary
36 circumstances, be provided with reasonable advance notice of such proceeding or
37 conference; and a teacher shall be allowed to record the conference or proceeding; and

38 (7) If a local board of education shall fail to hold a hearing and render a decision as
39 required under Part 11 of Article 17 of this chapter within the required time frames, then
40 the complaint shall be considered settled in favor of the complainant and the last
41 requested relief shall be granted. The State School Superintendent shall enforce this
42 paragraph upon appeal by the complainant within 60 working days of either the
43 expiration of the maximum time allowed to the local board of education by law or written
44 notice of refusal of the local board of education to hold a hearing for any reason. The
45 State School Superintendent shall take all steps necessary including, without limitation,
46 the withholding of state funds to the local board of education until such time as the local
47 board of education fully and completely grants the relief awarded under this paragraph.
48 In the event that the local board of education initially grants the relief as required in this
49 paragraph and subsequently acts in a manner contrary to such relief, the State School
50 Superintendent shall retain jurisdiction, responsibility, and authority to enforce the relief
51 as specified in this paragraph. The time frames may only be extended by mutual
52 agreement in writing by the parties. In the event that the school system is closed for a
53 number of days due to weather or other emergency, the days in all timelines may be
54 extended only in an equal or lesser number of days by written notification by either party
55 within five days of the reopening of the school system."

56 **SECTION 2.**

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