

Senate Bill 203

By: Senators Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd, Albers of the 56th, Loudermilk of the 14th, Hufstetler of the 52nd, Gooch of the 51st and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-2-141 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
2 review of competencies and core curriculum, so as to provide for the establishment of a  
3 Curriculum Content Standards Advisory Council to review and revise competencies and  
4 content standards; to provide for subcommittees; to provide for public hearings; to provide  
5 for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 20-2-141 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the review of  
9 competencies and core curriculum, is amended by revising as follows:

10 "20-2-141.

11 (a) Beginning on July 1, 2013, the State Board of Education shall establish a Curriculum  
12 Content Standards Advisory Council to advise the state board in creating and adopting  
13 world-class competencies and content standards that will lead to college and career  
14 readiness for all students. The advisory council shall include one curriculum director with  
15 expertise in curriculum and standards from the kindergarten through grade 12 education  
16 community; three parent representatives; one certified elementary teacher, one certified  
17 middle school teacher, and one certified high school teacher, each employed by a local  
18 school system or retired from teaching in public school and each with at least ten years'  
19 teaching experience in core curriculum; two representatives from four-year institutions of  
20 higher education; one representative from a technical college; one representative from the  
21 business community; two local board members or superintendents from local school  
22 systems appointed by the chairperson of the House Committee on Education; and two local  
23 board members or superintendents from local school systems appointed by the chairperson  
24 of the Senate Education and Youth Committee. All members of the advisory council shall  
25 have completed at least a four-year college degree. All members of the advisory council  
26 must be citizens of the State of Georgia for at least six months prior to appointment.  
27 Members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary

28 expenditures incurred in the performance of their duties as members of the advisory  
29 council. Members, as well as any members of their families or their business entities, shall  
30 not have conflicts of interest with regard to actions taken by the advisory council and shall  
31 not accept any money, meals, trips, gifts, or any other favors from any person, business,  
32 or organization that would benefit, financially or otherwise, from actions taken by the  
33 advisory council. The advisory council shall be as fairly balanced as reasonably possible  
34 with members from each of the congressional districts representing urban, suburban, and  
35 rural areas. Advisory council members shall serve no longer than four years. Each  
36 member rotating off the advisory council shall be replaced within 30 days.

37 (b)(1) The advisory council shall establish a subcommittee for each of the subject areas  
38 of the curriculum content standards. Each subcommittee shall include among its required  
39 members at least the following: three certified teachers employed by local school systems  
40 or retired from teaching, whether in public or private schools, and having at least ten  
41 years' teaching experience with at least five years in the academic content area of the  
42 subcommittee; three parents of students enrolled in public school; one professor with a  
43 doctoral degree in the specific academic content area of the subcommittee who is  
44 employed by or has retired from a four-year institution of higher education; one member  
45 appointed by the chairperson of the House Committee on Education; and one member  
46 appointed by the chairperson of the Senate Education and Youth Committee.  
47 Subcommittees that address high school subject areas may also include one representative  
48 from a technical college and one representative from the business community.

49 (2) All members of each subcommittee must be citizens of the State of Georgia for at  
50 least six months prior to appointment. Members shall serve without compensation but  
51 shall be reimbursed for necessary expenditures incurred in the performance of their duties  
52 as members of the advisory council. Members, as well as any members of their families  
53 or their business entities, shall not have financial conflicts of interest with regard to  
54 actions taken by the subcommittees or the advisory council and shall not accept any  
55 money, meals, trips, gifts, or any other favors from any person, business, or organization  
56 that would benefit, financially or otherwise, from actions taken by the subcommittees or  
57 the advisory council. Subcommittees shall be as fairly balanced as reasonably possible  
58 with members from urban, suburban, and rural areas. Subcommittee members shall serve  
59 no longer than four years. Each required member rotating off a subcommittee shall be  
60 replaced within 30 days.

61 (3) Each subcommittee shall review the standards in effect in Georgia as of June 30,  
62 2010, in its subject area to ensure that they contain clarity, rigor, content, depth, and  
63 coherence. For perspective, each subcommittee shall also examine curriculum reform

64 efforts over the past few decades to ensure that current efforts do not take place without  
 65 historical context of reform efforts. The subcommittee shall:

66 (A) Review relevant research on the subject area and identify areas in the standards  
 67 where revision is appropriate;

68 (B) Examine curriculum standards for the subject area adopted by other states;

69 (C) Collect feedback on the standards from teachers, parents, and other stakeholders  
 70 through the development of an online survey and make feedback available to the public  
 71 via Internet posting; and

72 (D) Solicit feedback from appropriate content related organizations, associations, and  
 73 societies.

74 (4) Each subcommittee shall revise the standards to reflect its findings from the research  
 75 conducted pursuant to paragraph (3) of this subsection.

76 (5) Each subcommittee, through the Department of Education, shall provide an electronic  
 77 copy of the revised standards to each local school system and shall make such revised  
 78 standards available to the public via Internet posting. Each local school system shall  
 79 notify parents or guardians of its students that the curriculum content standards are being  
 80 revised and that there is an opportunity to provide feedback. Each subcommittee, through  
 81 the Department of Education, shall also provide an electronic copy of the revised  
 82 standards to the relevant department head of each institution of higher education in this  
 83 state. A public comment period of at least 60 days shall be provided, and each  
 84 subcommittee shall conduct at least one public hearing for the purpose of permitting the  
 85 public to comment on the rigor, clarity, and reasonableness of the standards developed  
 86 by the subcommittee. The standards shall be revised as appropriate.

87 (6) At the conclusion of the revision process, each subcommittee shall submit the revised  
 88 standards to the advisory council for its review and approval.

89 (c) Upon receipt of the revised standards from the subcommittees, the advisory council  
 90 shall review and finalize the standards before forwarding them to the State Board of  
 91 Education. The state board shall then present the standards during at least one public  
 92 hearing held in every congressional district and at an open hearing before a joint committee  
 93 composed of the House Committee on Education and the Senate Education and Youth  
 94 Committee.

95 ~~The State Board of Education shall establish at least once every four years a review of the~~  
 96 ~~adopted competencies and uniformly sequenced core curriculum by a task force broadly~~  
 97 ~~representative of educational interests and the concerned public. After considering the~~  
 98 ~~findings and recommendations of the task force, the state board shall make such changes~~  
 99 ~~in the student competencies lists and core curriculum as it deems in the best interest of the~~

100 ~~state and its citizens and shall report such proposed changes to local school systems and~~  
101 ~~the General Assembly for review."~~

102 **SECTION 2.**

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