

House Bill 888

By: Representatives Thomas of the 21st, Jasperse of the 11th, Wade of the 9th, Carson of the 46th, Powell of the 32nd, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, so as to
2 add new statutes and amend various existing statutes to include provisions regarding the
3 treatment of race and other individual traits and beliefs in public education in this state; to
4 prohibit state agencies, local boards of education, or public elementary or secondary school
5 administrators, teachers, or other personnel from compelling any individual to affirm, adopt,
6 adhere to, profess, or promote concepts in violation of certain federal and state
7 anti-discrimination laws; to prohibit the inclusion of certain concepts in courses offered in
8 public elementary and secondary schools of this state; to provide for the promotion and
9 protection of the intellectual freedom of students, faculty, and other personnel at public
10 postsecondary educational institutions in this state; to provide for a complaint resolution
11 policy and process; to provide for legislative findings and intent; to provide for definitions;
12 to provide for penalties; to provide for remedies; to provide for statutory construction; to
13 provide for conforming changes; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws;
14 and for other purposes.

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

H. B. 888

- 1 -

SECTION 1.

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(a) The General Assembly recognizes:

(1) The First Amendment of the United States Constitution and Article I, Section I, Paragraph V of the Georgia Constitution protect freedom of speech by prohibiting laws abridging, curtailing, or restraining free speech;

(2) The Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution and Article I, Section I, Paragraph II of the Georgia Constitution provide that no person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws; and

(3) No provision in the United States Constitution or the Georgia Constitution enables either the United States government or the government of this state to compel persons to affirm, adopt, adhere to, profess, or promote specific beliefs.

(b) The General Assembly finds:

(1) Slavery, racial discrimination under the law, and racism in general are so inconsistent with the founding principles of the United States that Americans fought a civil war to eliminate the first, waged long-standing political campaigns to eradicate the second, and rendered the third unacceptable in the court of public opinion, all of which dispels the idea that the United States and its institutions are systemically racist and confutes the notion that slavery, racial discrimination under the law, and racism should be at the center of public elementary, secondary, and postsecondary educational institutions;

(2) Democratic societies built on the ideals of individual freedom and the self-driven pursuit of prosperity with a dedication to equal opportunity for all will thrive in perpetuity, while societies built on the false promises of equity and equal outcomes for all have consistently ended in failed states; and

(3) Americans should be allowed, in the words of civil rights activist Robert Woodson, "an aspirational and inspirational take on America's history, debunking the misguided argument that the present-day problems of black Americans are caused by the injustices of past failures, such as slavery."

43 (c) It is the intent of the General Assembly:

44 (1) That the State Board of Education, the Department of Education, the State Charter
45 Schools Commission, local boards of education, and administrators, teachers, and other
46 personnel of the public elementary and secondary schools of this state maintain policies in
47 accordance with Title IV and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the
48 federal Education Amendments of 1972, Code Section 20-2-131, and Code
49 Section 20-2-315; and

50 (2) To promote and protect the intellectual freedom of students, faculty, and other
51 personnel at postsecondary educational institutions of this state which receive in any
52 manner funds from the state.

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SECTION 2.

54 Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, is amended in
55 Article 1 of Chapter 1, relating to general provisions regarding education, by adding two new
56 Code sections to read as follows:

57 "20-1-11.

58 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

59 (1) 'Primary instructional material' shall include instructional materials and content, as
60 defined by the State Board of Education pursuant to Code Section 20-2-1010, and locally
61 approved instructional materials and content, as defined in subsection (a) of
62 Code Section 20-2-1017.

63 (2) 'Supplementary or ancillary material' means material that is not primary instructional
64 material and is included, or intended to be included, by a teacher for use as part of
65 classroom discussion or other classroom activity or is recommended by a teacher for
66 review by one or more students. Supplementary or ancillary material includes, but is not
67 limited to, articles, online simulations, worksheets, novels, biographies, speeches, videos,
68 music, and similar resources in any medium, including both physical and digital.

69 (b) No state agency, local board of education, or public elementary or secondary school
70 administrator, teacher, or other personnel shall compel any individual to affirm, adopt,
71 adhere to, profess, or promote concepts in violation of Title IV and Title VI of the federal
72 Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the federal Education Amendments of 1972, Code
73 Section 20-2-131, and Code Section 20-2-315, including, but not limited to, the following:

74 (1) That individuals of any race, ethnicity, religion, color, or national origin are
75 inherently superior or inferior;

76 (2) That individuals should be adversely or advantageously treated on the basis of their
77 race, ethnicity, religion, color, or national origin;

78 (3) That individuals, by virtue of their race, ethnicity, religion, color, or national origin
79 bear collective guilt and are inherently responsible for actions committed in the past by
80 other members of the same race, ethnicity, religion, color, or national origin;

81 (4) That governing systems or programs which were designed to identify, select, or
82 promote participants on the basis of merit or work ethic are discriminatory or were
83 created by members of a particular race, ethnicity, religion, color, or national origin to
84 oppress members of another race, ethnicity, religion, color, or national origin;

85 (5) That any individual should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of
86 psychological distress on account of the individual's race, ethnicity, religion, color, or
87 national origin;

88 (6) That an individual's moral character is necessarily determined by the individual's
89 race, ethnicity, religion, color, or national origin; and

90 (7) That the United States is a systemically racist country.

91 (c) No state agency, local board of education, or public elementary or secondary school
92 shall include, promote, or allow school administrators, teachers, or other school personnel
93 to use any content standards, course, curriculum, or instructional plan, practice, program,
94 or material that compels students to affirm, adopt, adhere to, profess, or promote any of the
95 concepts provided for in paragraphs (1) through (7) of subsection (b) of this Code section.

96 (d) No state agency, local board of education, or public elementary or secondary school
97 shall require or facilitate professional development or training programs for school
98 administrators, teachers, or other personnel which compel such individuals to affirm, adopt,
99 adhere to, profess, or promote any of the concepts provided for in paragraphs (1)
100 through (7) of subsection (b) of this Code section.

101 (e) No public elementary or secondary school administrator, teacher, or other personnel
102 shall compel or attempt to compel any individual to engage in or observe a discussion of
103 any public policy issue.

104 (f)(1) No state agency, local board of education, or public elementary or secondary
105 school shall require the following of any student in order for such student to receive
106 course credit or to successfully complete a course assignment:

107 (A) Participation or association with the activities of any organization engaged in
108 lobbying efforts relating to federal, state, or local legislation;

109 (B) Participation or association with the activities of any organization engaged in social
110 or public policy advocacy;

111 (C) Participation or association with any activity that involves lobbying efforts relating
112 to federal, state, or local legislation; and

113 (D) Participation or association with any partisan activity relating to social or public
114 policy advocacy.

115 (2) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit individuals from observing
116 or participating in lawful government processes or volunteering support for the lawful
117 operations of federal, state, or local government agencies and organizations, including
118 agencies and organizations of a legislative branch, judicial branch, or executive branch
119 of a government entity.

120 (g) No state agency, local board of education, or public elementary or secondary school
121 shall use public funds to contract with, hire, or otherwise engage speakers, consultants,
122 trainers, and other persons:

123 (1) To communicate with students, school administrators, teachers, or other personnel
124 for the purpose of professing or promoting any of the concepts provided for in
125 paragraphs (1) through (7) of subsection (b) of this Code section; or

126 (2) To communicate with students, school administrators, teachers, or other personnel
127 for the purpose of compelling or encouraging them to affirm, adopt, adhere to, profess,
128 or promote any of the concepts provided for in paragraphs (1) through (7) of
129 subsection (b) of this Code section.

130 (h)(1) Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, each public elementary and secondary
131 school shall include and maintain on the homepage of its website a link that provides a
132 detailed list of primary instructional materials used in all courses available at the school,
133 including, but not limited to, the title, author, creator, and publisher of any book,
134 periodical, treatise, article, recording, software, webpage, or paper.

135 (2) Each public elementary and secondary school shall review primary instructional
136 materials of each course and update the online list of primary instructional materials on
137 a semi-annual basis or more frequently as determined necessary by the local school
138 system or school administration; provided, however, that before a new course may be
139 made available to students, the online list of primary instructional materials shall be
140 updated to include the primary instructional materials for the new course.

141 (3) Each public elementary and secondary school shall make all primary instructional
142 materials and supplementary or ancillary materials used or proposed for use by such
143 school available for review on site upon request by any parent or guardian of a student
144 who is or will be enrolled in such school or to a student who has reached the age of
145 majority or is a lawfully emancipated minor and who is enrolled at such school. Each
146 public elementary and secondary school may specify reasonable hours for such review;
147 provided, however, that upon a timely request, such review must be accommodated by
148 the school no less than 24 hours prior to the use of the primary instructional materials or
149 supplementary or ancillary materials.

150 (i)(1) No later than August 1, 2022, each local board of education shall adopt a complaint
151 resolution policy for its local school system to address complaints alleging violations of
152 any provision of subsections (b) through (h) of this Code section at a school in such
153 school system. The complaint resolution policy shall provide that:

154 (A) A school or local school system shall not be required to respond to a complaint
155 made pursuant to this subsection unless it is made by:

156 (i) The parent of a student enrolled at the school where the alleged violation
157 occurred;

158 (ii) A student who has reached the age of majority or is a lawfully emancipated minor
159 and who is enrolled at the school where the alleged violation occurred;

160 (iii) An individual employed as a school administrator, teacher, or other school
161 personnel at the school where the alleged violation occurred;

162 (iv) The district attorney for the county where the alleged violation occurred; or

163 (v) The Attorney General;

164 (B) The complaint shall first be submitted in writing to the principal of the school
165 where the alleged violation occurred;

166 (C) The complaint shall provide a reasonably detailed description of the alleged
167 violation;

168 (D) Within three school days of receiving such written complaint, the school principal
169 or his or her designee shall review the complaint and take reasonable steps to
170 investigate the allegations in the complaint;

171 (E) The school principal shall determine whether the alleged violation occurred, in
172 whole or in part;

173 (F) Within five school days of receiving the complaint, unless another schedule is
174 mutually agreed to by the complainant and the school principal, the school principal
175 shall confer with the complainant and inform the complainant whether a violation
176 occurred, in whole or in part, and, if such a violation was found to have occurred, what

177 remedial steps will be taken; provided, however, that the confidentiality of student or
178 personnel information will not be violated;

179 (G) The school principal's determinations provided for in subparagraphs (E) and (F)
180 of this paragraph shall be subject to timely administrative review by the local school
181 superintendent or his or her designee upon a written request by the complainant to the
182 local school superintendent; and

183 (H) The local school superintendent's decision following the administrative review
184 provided for in subparagraph (G) of this paragraph shall be subject to review by the
185 local board of education pursuant to Code Section 20-2-1160.

186 (2) No later than July 1, 2022, the Department of Education shall promulgate a model
187 policy for a complaint resolution process that meets the requirements of paragraph (1) of
188 this subsection. The Department of Education shall develop guidance for local school
189 systems for use when determining whether violations of subsections (b) through (h) of
190 this Code section have occurred. The Department of Education shall be authorized to
191 revise such model policy and guidance from time to time and shall post such policy and
192 guidance on its website in order to assist local school systems.

193 (j)(1) Following a decision by a local board of education regarding a complaint made
194 pursuant to subsection (i) of this Code section, any party aggrieved by the decision of the
195 local board of education shall have the right to appeal such decision to the State Board
196 of Education pursuant to subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-1160; and any party
197 aggrieved by the decision of the State Board of Education may appeal such decision to
198 the superior court of the county wherein the local board of education is located pursuant
199 to subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-1160.

200 (2) In any action brought before a superior court pursuant to this subsection, the court
201 may award court costs and reasonable attorney's fees to the prevailing party.

202 (3) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit, restrict, or limit in any
203 manner any cause of action or administrative procedure otherwise provided for by law

204 and available to any individual, including, but not limited to, any public elementary or
205 secondary school student, administrator, teacher, or other personnel.

206 (k)(1) Beginning September 30, 2023, and by September 30 each year thereafter, the
207 State School Superintendent shall provide a report to the State Board of Education
208 identifying each local school system and each public elementary or secondary school in
209 which a violation of any of the provisions of subsections (b) through (h) of this Code
210 section has been found to have occurred by the State Board of Education or a court of
211 competent jurisdiction as provided in subsection (j) of this Code section, whereupon:

212 (A) The State Board of Education shall withhold 20 percent of the state contributed
213 Quality Basic Education Program funds allotted to the local school system or public
214 elementary or secondary school in accordance with the provisions of Code
215 Section 20-2-243; and

216 (B) The Department of Education shall develop a corrective action plan for the local
217 school system or public elementary or secondary school to remediate each violation
218 found to have occurred by the State Board of Education or a court of competent
219 jurisdiction as provided in subsection (j) of this Code section.

220 (2) A local school system or public elementary or secondary school whose allotment of
221 state contributed Quality Basic Education Program funds has been withheld as provided
222 for in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of this subsection shall have such allotment fully
223 restored within 45 days of demonstrating to the satisfaction of the State Board of
224 Education substantial compliance with the corrective action plan provided for in
225 subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) of this subsection.

226 (3) Beginning November 1, 2023, and by November 1 each year thereafter, the State
227 School Superintendent shall submit a report to the House Education Committee and the
228 Senate Committee on Education and Youth that includes the following:

229 (A) A list of each local school system and public elementary or secondary school in
230 which a violation of any of the provisions of subsections (b) through (h) of this Code

231 section has been found to have occurred by the State Board of Education or a court of
232 competent jurisdiction as provided in subsection (j) of this Code section during the
233 immediately preceding school year; and

234 (B) A list of each local school system and public elementary or secondary school
235 whose allotment of state contributed Quality Basic Education Program funds was
236 withheld for any period of time during the immediately preceding school year,
237 including the amount withheld and the length of time such funds were withheld.

238 (1)(1) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to prohibit any state agency, local
239 board of education, or public elementary or secondary school from including or allowing
240 school administrators, teachers, or other personnel to use, as part of any content standard,
241 course, curriculum, or instructional program, instructional materials that include the
242 following:

243 (A) The impartial and politically nonpartisan presentation of the research-based history
244 of a particular race or ethnic group, as described in textbooks and instructional
245 materials adopted in accordance with state law and local policies;

246 (B) The impartial and politically nonpartisan discussion of controversial aspects of
247 history; and

248 (C) The impartial and politically nonpartisan instruction on the historical treatment of
249 a particular group of people based on race, ethnicity, class, nationality, religion, or
250 geographic region.

251 (2) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to prohibit any individual employed
252 by a state agency, a local board of education, or a public elementary or secondary school,
253 when acting in his or her individual capacity and not within the scope of his her
254 employment, from discussing the concepts provided for in paragraphs (1) through (7) of
255 subsection (b) of this Code section.

256 (3) Except as provided in subsections (b) through (e) of this Code section, nothing in this
257 Code section shall be construed to prohibit students, school administrators, teachers, or

258 other school personnel from voluntarily engaging in or observing a politically nonpartisan
259 discussion of public policy issues or other issues which some individuals may find
260 unwelcome, disagreeable, or offensive.

261 (m) This Code section shall be construed to be a statute relating to the prevention of
262 unlawful conduct for purposes of subsection (e) of Code Section 20-2-82, subsection (b)
263 of Code Section 20-2-244, and paragraph (5) of subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-2065.

264 20-1-12.

265 In order to promote and protect the intellectual freedom of students, faculty, and other
266 personnel at public postsecondary educational institutions in this state and to promote and
267 protect the free exchange of ideas, it is the intent of the General Assembly that individual
268 students, faculty, and other personnel of the public postsecondary educational institutions
269 of this state shall be free to take individual positions on public policy issues and that such
270 students, faculty, or other personnel shall not face discipline, sanction, or other adverse
271 action of any kind by a postsecondary educational institution of this state solely for taking
272 an individual position on any public policy issue. It is further the intent of the General
273 Assembly that postsecondary educational institutions of this state should strive to maintain
274 a neutral institutional position on any public policy issue that is not directly related to the
275 operation of such institutions and should not directly or indirectly compel students, faculty,
276 or other personnel to publicly express a particular position on a public policy issue."

277 **SECTION 3.**

278 Said title is further amended in Part 1 of Article 6 of Chapter 2, relating to the short title and
279 purpose of quality basic education, by revising Code Section 20-2-131, relating to objectives
280 and purposes of Quality Basic Education Program, as follows:

281 "20-2-131.

282 The General Assembly of Georgia, recognizing the need for:

- 283 (1) Implementing a highly rigorous curriculum to encompass content standards in public
284 schools state wide which ensures that each student is provided ample opportunity to
285 develop competencies necessary for lifelong learning as well as the competencies needed
286 to maintain good physical and mental health, to participate actively in the governing
287 process and community activities, to protect the environment and conserve public and
288 private resources, and to be an effective worker and responsible citizen of high character;
- 289 (2) Providing all children and youth in Georgia with access to a quality program which
290 supports their development of essential competencies in order that they may realize their
291 potential;
- 292 (3) Providing an equitable public education finance structure which ensures that every
293 student has an opportunity for a quality basic education, regardless of where the student
294 lives, and ensures that all Georgians pay their fair share of this finance structure;
- 295 (4) Establishing and maintaining state-wide standards which ensure that each student has
296 access to a quality program;
- 297 (5) Making teaching an attractive and rewarding profession in order to attract, retain, and
298 fully utilize highly competent personnel in all public schools of the state;
- 299 (6) Providing effective staff development and attractive incentive programs which will
300 motivate public school personnel to enhance their competencies and perform to their
301 potential throughout their career;
- 302 (7) Providing local school systems with the incentives, resources, and technical
303 assistance they need to plan and implement improvements in their programs on a
304 continuing basis;
- 305 (8) Providing parents and the general public with information on the quality of schools
306 and the achievement of the public school students in Georgia;
- 307 (9) Providing appropriate school facilities in which quality educational programs can be
308 offered, particularly in the small and sparsely populated school systems;

- 309 (10) Providing an accountability system to ensure that all students are receiving a quality
310 instructional program so that all students can achieve at their highest level;
- 311 (11) Providing a seamless education system to allow for the delivery of educational
312 programs at all levels and the movement of students between programs and education
313 agencies as efficiently and effectively as possible and to provide for coordination on a
314 continuing basis between agencies responsible for education services;
- 315 (12) Providing a safe school environment so that students can learn and mature without
316 fear of violence or intimidation;
- 317 (13) Providing access to nursing services so that teachers can deliver instructional
318 services without the added responsibility of addressing students' nursing needs and so that
319 students can receive nursing services while at school;
- 320 (14) Providing academic intervention programs designed to assist students who are
321 performing below grade level in order to increase their mastery of critical academic
322 knowledge and skills;
- 323 (15) Providing an alternative educational environment for those students who need a
324 different educational structure in order to properly master critical academic knowledge
325 and skills and to provide an environment where they can stay in school and acquire the
326 knowledge and skills necessary for a productive life;
- 327 (16) Providing students with advice and assistance in planning their academic and work
328 careers and achieving those goals;
- 329 (17) Providing an evaluation process for all school system personnel to assure the public
330 that personnel are performing at acceptable levels and providing quality educational
331 services to all students;
- 332 (18) Providing an environment where parents and the community can participate in
333 school activities and support school personnel as they work with students and address
334 their academic needs;

335 (19) Providing for parent and community participation in the establishment of school
336 programs, policies, and management so that the school and community are connected in
337 meaningful and productive ways and providing support for teachers and school leaders
338 in addressing the school's needs; and

339 (20) Providing a means whereby the foregoing might be met in order to provide an
340 opportunity for a quality basic education to the citizens of the state and to discharge the
341 responsibilities and obligations of the state to ensure a literate and informed society
342 does establish the Quality Basic Education Program. It is declared to be the policy of this
343 state to assure that each Georgian has access to quality instruction, as defined in this article,
344 designed to improve upon a student's learning capacity. It is further declared that no
345 student shall be refused admission into or be excluded from any public school in the state,
346 or assigned any distinction or classification within any such public school, on account of
347 race, ethnicity, creed, color, or national origin."

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SECTION 4.

349 Said title is further amended in Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2, relating to competencies and
350 core curriculum under quality basic education, by revising subsection (a) of Code
351 Section 20-2-142, relating to prescribed courses, as follows:

352 "(a)(1) Subject to the provisions of Code Section 20-1-11, all ~~At~~ elementary and
353 secondary schools which receive in any manner funds from the state shall provide the
354 following course offerings in the manner and at the grade level prescribed by the State
355 Board of Education:

356 (A) A course of study in the background, history, and development of the federal and
357 state governments and a study of Georgia county and municipal governments; and

358 (B) A course of study in the history of the United States and in the history of Georgia
359 and in the essentials of the United States and Georgia Constitutions, including the study
360 of American institutions and ideals which shall include a study of the Pledge of

361 Allegiance to the flag of the United States and the Georgia flag in addition to other
362 institutions and ideals."

363 **SECTION 5.**

364 Said part is further amended in Code Section 20-2-142.1, relating to coursework in the
365 founding philosophy and principles of the United States of America, by revising
366 subsections (c), (d), and (e) of as follows:

367 "(c) Subject to the provisions of Code Section 20-1-11, each Each local board of education
368 may require all students, as a condition of graduation, during their ninth through twelfth
369 grade years to complete and pass a separate semester course covering the following
370 founding philosophy and principles of the United States of America:

371 (1) America's founding philosophy, to include at least the following:

372 (A) As articulated in the Declaration of Independence the foundational idea of the
373 Creator-endowed unalienable rights of the people;

374 (B) The purpose of limited government, which is to protect the unalienable rights of
375 the people and to protect the people from violence and fraud;

376 (C) The structure of government, separation of powers, and checks and balances; and

377 (D) The rule of law, with frequent and free elections in a representative government
378 which governs by majority vote within a constitutional framework;

379 (2) America's founding principles, to include at least the following:

380 (A) Federalism-government as close to the people as possible, limited federal
381 government, and strong state and local government;

382 (B) Freedoms of speech, press, religion, and peaceful assembly guaranteed by the Bill
383 of Rights;

384 (C) Rights to private property and freedom of individual enterprise;

385 (D) The innocence of any crime until proven guilty, with right of habeas corpus, and
386 no unreasonable searches, seizures, or cruel and unusual punishment;

- 387 (E) A virtuous and moral people educated in the philosophy and principles of
 388 government for a free people;
- 389 (F) The right to a speedy trial by a jury of peers;
- 390 (G) The principles of economy in spending, constitutional limitations on government
 391 power to tax and spend, and prompt payment of public debt;
- 392 (H) Economic system of money with intrinsic value;
- 393 (I) Equality before the law and due process of law with grand jury indictment for
 394 capital crimes before holding a person to account;
- 395 (J) The right of people to keep and bear arms, strong defense capability, supremacy of
 396 civil authority over military;
- 397 (K) Peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with
 398 none;
- 399 (L) All laws concise and understandable by the people and not ex post facto laws;
- 400 (M) Eternal vigilance by 'We the People'; and
- 401 (N) Founding documents including the Declaration of Independence, the United States
 402 Constitution, and the Federalist Papers; and
- 403 (3) Transformational movements in American history, to include at least the following:
- 404 (A) The antislavery movement;
- 405 (B) The Civil Rights movement;
- 406 (C) Women's suffrage;
- 407 (D) The contributions of immigrants to American society; and
- 408 (E) The history of the Native American population.
- 409 (d) The Department of Education and local boards of education, as appropriate, may
 410 provide, or cause to be provided, ~~curriculum content which reflects the content standards~~
 411 ~~addressed pursuant to~~ content standards, curriculum, and instructional materials which
 412 appropriately address the content provided for in subsection (c) of this Code section and
 413 teacher training to ensure that the intent and provisions of this Code section are

414 implemented, provided, however, that such content standards, curriculum, instructional
415 materials, and teacher training comply with the provisions of Code Section 20-1-11.
416 (e) This Code section shall apply beginning in school year ~~2017-2018~~ 2022-2023."

417 **SECTION 6.**

418 Said part is further amended in Code Section 20-2-145, relating to comprehensive character
419 education program, by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

420 "(c) By the start of the 2022-2023 school year, the character education program and
421 character education program workshops required by this Code section shall comply with
422 the provisions of Code Section 20-1-11."

423 **SECTION 7.**

424 Said part is further amended in Code Section 20-2-148, relating to elective course in History
425 and Literature of the Old and New Testaments and religious neutrality, by amending
426 subsection (h) as follows:

427 "(h) A course offered under this Code section shall follow applicable law and all federal
428 and state guidelines in maintaining religious neutrality and accommodating the diverse
429 religious views, traditions, and perspectives of students in the school. A course under this
430 Code section shall not endorse, favor, or promote, or disfavor or show hostility toward; any
431 particular religion or nonreligious faith or religious perspective. A course offered under
432 this Code section shall comply with the provisions of Code Section 20-1-11. The State
433 Board of Education, in complying with this Code section, shall not violate any provision
434 of the United States Constitution or federal law, the Georgia Constitution or any state law,
435 or any administrative regulations of the United States Department of Education or the
436 Georgia Department of Education."

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SECTION 8.

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