



2012 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Education and Youth Bills Supplement

The American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia (ACLU of GA) is committed to the protection of civil liberties and civil rights of all Georgians as dictated in the United States Constitution.

- Charter Schools (HB 661) (House Education)
 - Requires that charter schools be nonsectarian and requires that charter schools follow the same guidelines as other schools in terms of hiring, personnel, and civil rights laws. **(SUPPORT)**
 - Sponsored by: (1) Heard, Keith 114th; (2) Williams, "Coach" 89th
 - Status: House Second Reader – January 10, 2012
- School Voucher Requirement Waiver (HB 181) (House Education; Senate Education and Youth)
 - Would allow the State Board of Education to waive the prior school year requirement for school voucher eligibility. **(OPPOSE)**
 - Sponsored by: (1) Golick, Rich 34th; (2) Coleman, Brooks 97th; (3) Casas, David 103rd; (4) Lindsey, Edward 54th; (5) Nix, Randy 69th; (6) Setzler, Ed 35th.
 - Sponsored in the Senate by: Millar, Fran 40th
 - Status: Senate Recommitted – January 9, 2012
- School Vouchers for Military and Foster Families (SB 87) (Senate Education and Youth)
 - Expands the class of students eligible for school vouchers to include students from military and foster families. Currently, the only students eligible for the program are students with special needs. **(OPPOSE)**.
 - Sponsored by: (1) Rogers, Chip 21st; (2) Williams, Tommie 19th; (3) Albers, John 56th; (4) Stone, Jesse 23rd; (5) McKoon, Joshua 29th; (6) Ligon, Jr., William 3rd
 - Status: Senate Committee Favorably Reported – January 30, 2012
- Raise Age of Mandatory Education (SB 49) (Senate Education and Youth)
 - Raises the compulsory age of attendance from 16 to 16½ and to revise provisions relating to adult literacy. **(SUPPORT)**
 - Sponsored by: (1) Albers, John 56th (2) Ligon, Jr., William 3rd (3) Carter, Jason 42nd (4) Seabaugh, Mitch 28th (5) Stone, Jesse 23rd (6) Hamrick, Bill 30th
 - Status: Senate Committee Favorably Reported – January 30, 2012

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- Parent Trigger Act (HB 731) (House Education)
 - A majority of parents in a specially called meeting may petition the local school board to convert the school to a charter under certain circumstances. (**OPPOSE**)
 - Sponsored by: (1) Lindsey, Edward 54th (2) Ashe, Kathy 56th (3) Setzler, Ed 35th (4) Hamilton, Mark 23rd (5) Coleman, Brooks 97th (6) Dudgeon, Mike 24th
 - Status: House Second Readers – January 23, 2012
- Hazing Bill (HB 659) (House Education)
 - To provide that certain persons convicted of hazing shall not be eligible to attend schools in this state. (**OPPOSE**)
 - Sponsored by: (1) Wilkinson, Joe 52nd
 - Status: House Second Readers – January 10, 2012
- Constitutional Amendment (HR 1162) (House Education)
 - Modifies the definition of special schools to include charter schools and would allow the state to channel funding from local school systems to fund new state authorized charter schools. (**OPPOSE**)
 - Sponsored by: (1) Jones, Jan 46th (2) Coleman, Brooks 97th (3) Lindsey, Edward 54th (4) Kaiser, Margaret 59th (5) Morgan, Alisha 39th (6) Hatchett, Matt 143rd
 - Status: House Reconsidered – February 09, 2012
- **HR 1325**: Constitutional Amendment to permit the state to create charter schools but to forbid the state from taking any money from the local school districts from which those students come. *An alternative to HR 1162.*
- Amend "Quality Basic Education Act" (HB 713) (Senate Education and Youth)
 - Delays implementation of some career and college readiness initiatives until the 2013-2014 school year for one year. (**MONITORING**)
 - Sponsored by: (1) Nix, Randy 69th (2) Davis, Steve 109th (3) Carter, Amy 175th (4) Coleman, Brooks 97th (5) Kaiser, Margaret 59th (6) Casas, David 103rd
 - Status: Senate Read and Referred – January 25, 2012
- Charter School Application and Funding (HB 797) (House Education)
 - Charter schools denied by a local school board and subsequently approved as a state charter school would receive the local share of state per student funds. Also provides for simultaneous submission of charter applications to local and state boards of education. (**OPPOSE**)
 - Sponsored by: (1) Jones, Jan 46th (2) Coleman, Brooks 97th (3) Lindsey, Edward 54th
 - Status: House Second Readers – January 26, 2012



- Establish Group to Look at Alternatives to School Expulsion (HR 1277) (House Education)
 - This bill would create a House Study Committee that would look for alternatives to school expulsion. The sponsors realize that many students are being expelled for non-violent offenses and for offenses that are unrelated to school and occur off school grounds. The Committee would encourage the General Assembly to adopt policies that discourage expulsion in these cases because they recognize that both the students and society as a whole benefit when they remain in school. **(SUPPORT)**
 - Sponsored by: Neal, Yasmin 75th; Kaiser, Margaret 59th; Clark, Valerie 104th; Dudgeon, Mike 24th; Dawkins-Haigler, Dee 93rd; Evans, Stacey 40th
 - Status: House Second Readers - February 7, 2012
- Child Protection and Public Safety Act (Juvenile Code Rewrite) (SB 127) (Senate Judiciary)
 - This bill revises and modernizes Georgia's Juvenile Code. Includes provisions to provide for children in need of services and restorative justice for Georgia's children. **(SUPPORT)**
 - Sponsored by: (1) Hamrick, Bill 30th (2) Crosby, John 13th (3) Cowser, Bill 46th (4) Ramsey, Sr., Ronald 43rd (5) Fort, Vincent 39th (6) Stone, Jesse 23rd
 - Status: Senate Committee Favorably Reported – February 15, 2012

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