

Senate Bill 138

By: Senators Ramsey, Sr. of the 43rd, Wilkinson of the 50th, Albers of the 56th, Davis of the 22nd, Miller of the 49th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 27 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to loitering at or disrupting schools, so as to enact the "Elementary School Protection
3 Act"; to authorize local boards of education to employ elementary para-protection officers
4 to provide security in public elementary schools; to provide for requirements; to provide for
5 stipends; to amend Code Section 16-11-127.1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
6 relating to carrying weapons within school safety zones, at school functions, or on school
7 property, so as to authorize elementary para-protection officers to carry concealed weapons
8 in school safety zones; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
9 purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

12 Article 27 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
13 loitering at or disrupting schools, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as
14 follows:

15 "20-2-1186.

16 (a) This Code section shall be known and may be cited as the 'Elementary School
17 Protection Act.'

18 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the local board of education for
19 each school system in this state may designate one or more paraprofessionals or other
20 school personnel to serve as elementary para-protection officers to assist in protecting
21 students and staff in public elementary schools. Such officers shall be authorized to
22 possess and carry concealed, law enforcement approved, 9mm firearms, taser devices, and
23 arrest restraints within a school safety zone or school building, at a school function, or on
24 school property or on a bus or other transportation furnished by the school.

25 (c) To qualify as an elementary para-protection officer, he or she shall:

26 (1) Have at least five years of employment experience as a nonadministrative law
27 enforcement officer certified by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training
28 Council; and
29 (2) Upon employment, be authorized with law enforcement and arrest powers by a local
30 law enforcement agency, including any school law enforcement agency authorized by the
31 local board of education.
32 (d) The local board of education may elect to provide a stipend to such officers for the law
33 enforcement aspects of his or her employment. The local board shall be responsible for the
34 costs of any and all required training and certification for such elementary para-protection
35 officers to perform their duties under this Code section."

36 **SECTION 2.**

37 Code Section 16-11-127.1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to carrying
38 weapons within school safety zones, at school functions, or on school property, is amended
39 by revising subsection (c) by striking "or" at the end of paragraph (17), striking the period at
40 the end of paragraph (18) and inserting in its place "; or", and adding a new paragraph to read
41 as follows:

42 "(19) Elementary para-protection officers who meet the requirements of Code Section
43 20-2-1186."

44 **SECTION 3.**

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