

PRHS PTSA Legislative Report May 2021



Georgia Legislative Session 2021

The 156th Georgia General Assembly convened 01/21/21 and adjourned sine die 3/31/21. 2021 is the first year of a two-year biennium, so bills that did not pass this session will be eligible next year. 1164 bills were introduced this session with 369 passed by the House and 355 passed by the Senate. Passed bills were sent to Gov Kemp to either sign or veto them.

School vouchers - SB 47 passed

SB 47 broadens eligibility for special education needs children to attend private schools using vouchers.

Education scholarships - HB 60 failed

HB 60 would expand eligibility for who qualifies for education savings accounts. This bill was pulled back by its author.

Homeschooled athletes - SB 42 passed

SB 42 requires public schools to allow homeschooled athletes to participate in athletics and extracurricular activities as long as they take at least one online course through the local school.

Teacher incentives - HB 32 passed

HB 32 gives a \$3,000-per-year state income tax credit to some Georgia teachers who agree to work in certain rural or low-performing schools.

Post secondary education grants for foster, adopted & homeless children - SB 107 passed

SB 107 provides tuition & fee waivers for qualifying foster & adopted students in the University System of Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia. Homeless students receive in-state tuition up to a diploma, certificate, or baccalaureate degree.

QBE funding for each full-time equivalent student within a local charter school - SB 59 passed

SB 59 gives QBE funding for each FTE student within a local charter school.

Teacher of the Year invited to serve as advisor ex officio to State Board of Education - SB 88 passed

SB 88 invites Georgia Teacher of the Year to have a voice with the Board of Education.

Student transportation alternatives - SB 159 passed

SB 159 authorizes local boards of education to use vehicles other than school buses for the transport of students to and from school related activities, minimum requirements & insurance requirements.

Tobacco & vapor products added to mandatory K-12 drug & alcohol education programs - HB 287 passed

HB 287 expands drug & alcohol awareness training to include tobacco & vapor products.

Express lane Medicaid enrollment for SNAP recipients - HB 163 passed

Children eligible for SNAP nutrition programs in schools will automatically be enrolled in Medicaid health programs.

Juvenile court to include children who are under 18 years of age - HB 272 passed

HB 272 changes the age of a juvenile from 17 to under 18 for juvenile courts in criminal proceedings & provides uniform misdemeanor citations for some criminal activities.

Technical college pilot program to grant high school diplomas - SB 204 passed

Authorizes a pilot program for students over age 16 who have completed certain coursework requirements but who withdrew from high school to enroll in dual enrollment at a technical college to earn both a high school diploma & college credits.

**Applications for Hope scholarship & grant waivers for students with ADA disabilities -
SB 187 passed**

SB 187 amends eligibility requirements for a HOPE scholarship to establish a procedure for students with a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act to apply for a waiver from certain HOPE scholarship and grant eligibility requirements.

Respectfully Submitted,

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PRHS PTSA Legislative Liaisons