

House Bill 141

By: Representative Mainor of the 56th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 3 of Article 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to student health in elementary and secondary education, so as to require
3 local school systems to conduct suicide screenings on all students age eight through 18; to
4 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Part 3 of Article 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
8 relating to student health in elementary and secondary education, is amended in Code Section
9 20-2-779.1, relating to suicide prevention and awareness training and no duty of care
10 imposed, by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

11 "(d) Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, each local school system shall require every
12 student age eight through 18 to undergo a suicide screening at the beginning of each school
13 year. The Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Behavioral
14 Health and Developmental Disabilities, the Suicide Prevention Program established
15 pursuant to Code Section 37-1-27, and suicide prevention experts, shall develop or identify
16 one or more age-appropriate screening tools. Local school systems shall refer any students,

17 as appropriate, to mental health services or programs based on the results of the
18 screenings."

19 **SECTION 2.**

20 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.