

Senate Bill 459

By: Senators Dixon of the 45th, Payne of the 54th, Still of the 48th, Brass of the 28th and Echols of the 49th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 elementary and secondary education, so as to require the State Board of Education to develop
3 a comprehensive civics education program for students in kindergarten through grade 12; to
4 require the Department of Education, in consultation with the Georgia Commission on Civics
5 Education, to curate oral history resources to be known as "Portraits in Patriotism" as part
6 of such civics education program and develop civics education program workshops for public
7 school personnel; to provide for related matters; to provide for a short title; to repeal
8 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Civics Education and Portraits in
12 Patriotism Act."

13 **SECTION 2.**

14 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and
15 secondary education, is amended in Part 2 of Article 6, relating to competencies and core

16 curriculum under the "Quality Basic Education Act," by adding a new Code section to read
17 as follows:

18 "20-2-145.2.

19 (a) The State Board of Education shall, by the start of the 2025-2026 school year, develop
20 a comprehensive civics education program for students in kindergarten through grade 12
21 designed to help families, civic institutions, local communities, and local boards of
22 education and other public school governing bodies prepare students to be civically
23 knowledgeable and responsible adults and to understand the importance of civic
24 involvement in a constitutional republic. Such program shall aid students in developing:

25 (1) An understanding of their shared rights and responsibilities as residents of the state
26 and of the founding principles of the United States as provided for in Code Section
27 20-2-142.1;

28 (2) A sense of civic pride and a desire to participate regularly with government at the
29 local, state, and federal levels;

30 (3) An understanding of the process for effectively advocating before government bodies
31 and officials; and

32 (4) An understanding of the civic minded expectations of an upright and desirable
33 citizenry that recognizes and accepts responsibility for preserving and defending the
34 blessings of liberty inherited from prior generations and secured by the United States
35 Constitution.

36 (b) The Department of Education shall, in consultation with the Georgia Commission on
37 Civics Education:

38 (1) Curate oral history resources to be utilized as part of the civic education program that
39 provide portraits in patriotism based on the personal stories of diverse individuals who
40 demonstrate civic minded qualities, including first-person accounts of victims of other
41 nations' governing philosophies who can compare those philosophies with those of the
42 United States. Such oral history resources shall be known as 'Portraits in Patriotism'; and

43 (2) Develop civics education program workshops designed for public school personnel."

44 **SECTION 3.**

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