NEW GEORGIA LEGISLATION

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HOUSE BILL 808 O.C.G.A § 48-5-42.1

House Bill 808 ~ O.C.G.A 48-5-42.1

- Increases tangible personal property tax exemption valuation from \$7,500 to \$20,000
- "(b) All tangible personal property of a taxpayer, except motor vehicles, trailers, and mobile 19 homes, shall be exempt from all ad valorem taxation if the actual fair market value of the 20 total amount of taxable tangible personal property owned by the taxpayer within the 21 county, as determined by the board of tax assessors, does not 22 exceed \$7,500.00 \$20,000.00."
- Will be on ballot in November:
- "() YES Do you approve the Act that increases an exemption from property tax for all tangible personal property from
 - all tangible personal property from \$7,500.00 to \$20,000.00?"



HOUSE BILL 1019 O.C.G.A § 48-5-44



- Increases state-wide homestead exemption for owner occupied residences to \$4,000.
 - "...is actually occupied by the owner primarily as a residence and homestead. The exemption shall not exceed \$2,000.00 \$4,000.00 of the value of the homestead."

Will be on ballot in November:

- "() YES Shall the Act be approved which increases from \$2,000.00 to
- () NO \$10,000.00 a statewide homestead exemption from ad valorem taxes for state, county, and school purposes, other than municipal school purposes and other than to pay interest on and retire bonded indebtedness, for a homestead occupied by its owner?"

SENATE BILL 169 O.C.G.A. § 20-2-754

Senate Bill 169 ~ O.C.G.A 20-2-754



- Changes when tribunal hearing is to be held
- Hearing to be held within 10 days of suspension unless:
 - School and parents agree to extension
 - Not later than 15 days after suspension

"The hearing may be held later than 15 school days after the beginning of the suspension upon a written request by a parent or guardian and agreement by the school system;"

 District must provide "appropriate grade-level instructional materials" while student is suspended awaiting tribunal.

PROTECTING GEORGIA'S CHILDREN ON SOCIAL MEDIA ACT OF 2024

Senate Bill 351 includes House Bill 3381

PROTECTING GEORGIA'S CHILDREN ON SOCIAL MEDIA ACT OF 2024

20-2-149(a)(2)(A)

- Requires GADOE to develop and model programs for educating students regarding online safety
- Model programs for student in grades 6-12 and includes instruction on:
 - (i) The social, emotional, and physical effects of social media on users;
 - (ii) The effects of social media on the mental health of users, particularly teenagers;
 - (iii) The distribution of disinformation and misinformation on social media;
 - (iv) How social media influences thoughts and behaviors;



PROTECTING GEORGIA'S CHILDREN ON SOCIAL MEDIA ACT OF 2024 CONT'D



- (v) The permanency and risks of sharing materials online;
- (vi) How to maintain personal security and identify cyberbullying, predatory behavior, and human trafficking on the internet and social media; and
- (vii) How to report suspicious behavior encountered on the internet and social media to appropriate persons and authorities; and
- (B) May include information regarding the benefits of social media use, such as supporting career readiness for future academic or employment opportunities, sharing information with familiar family and friends, and safely connecting with other users with similar interests.
- GaDOE shall update the programs "periodically" to reflect changes in social media, research, etc.

Internet Safety Policies



- Revises existing statute requiring Internet Safety Policies
- Each governing body and superintendent shall take "necessary and appropriate" steps to implement and enforce an acceptable use policy that includes:

"providing for the adoption, use, and routine upgrading of technology protection measures which meet or exceed compliance standards and specifications established by the department."

 Upon parental request, each school and District shall provide a copy of the acceptable use policy and:

"information regarding the administrative procedures in effect to enforce such acceptable-use policy and to address complaints about such enforcement."

O.C.G.A. § 20-2-324 cont'd

Beginning 2025-2026 school year, by April 1st, the GaDOE shall establish:

"...compliance standards and specifications for technology protection measures to be used by schools and local school systems."

To include:

"measures and controls for parents or guardians of current students to supervise and manage appropriate internet access by such students who are using a school issued computer or other electronic device while not on school property, not on a school bus or other school vehicle, or not at a school related function."





- GaDOE is also to recommend technology protection measures to be installed by schools/District on each computer/electronic device issued to students
 - Technology protection measure as defined as "a technology that inspects and analyzes unencrypted internet traffic for malware and that blocks or filters electronic access to obscene materials, child pornography, or material that is harmful to minors."
- In collaboration with DOAS, GaDOE is authorized to create a nonexclusive list of providers of technology protection measures that meet or exceed the standards
- GaDOE will require annually, the providers to verify the technology protection measures meet or exceed standards

- GaDOE is also authorized to provide information to schools/District regarding state contracts with technology protection measure providers and technical assistance to schools/District in compliance.
- By December 1, 2025, DOE will develop personnel training guidelines which includes instruction in:
 - (i) Implementing and complying with acceptableuse policies required by this Code section;
 - (ii) Basic cyber security issues pertinent to schools, students, and educators, including, but not limited to, phishing and multifactor authentication; and
 - (iii) Other current and emerging issues and topics which address the safe and secure use of technology by students and educators.



- Each school/District shall submit a copy of its acceptable use policy to the state BOE
- Starts 2025-2026 school year and every October 15 thereafter
- Must identify the technology protection measures used to block obscene material, child pornography or material that is harmful to minors.
- Obscene material is defined as:
 - (A) To the average person, applying contemporary community standards, taken as a whole, the material predominantly appeals or panders to prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
 - (B) The material, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value; and
 - (C) The material depicts or describes in a patently offensive way sexual conduct as follows:
 (i) Acts of sexual intercourse, heterosexual or homosexual, normal or perverted, actual or simulated;
 (ii) Acts of masturbation;

(iii) Acts involving excretory functions or lewd exhibition of the genitals;

- (iv) Acts of bestiality or the fondling of sex organs of animals; or
- (v) Sexual acts of flagellation, torture, or other violence indicating a sadomasochistic sexual relationship.

- SBOE will review and if it determines the policy or technology protection measure are not reasonably designed to achieve the requirements of the code section;
- SBOE shall send letter explaining noncompliance and governing body will have 30 days to correct.
- Can get a 30-day extension.
- SBOE has 60 days to approve revision.





SBOE can withhold a portion of state funding allotted to School District that:

- (A) Fails to timely submit an acceptable-use policy or technology protection measure in accordance with paragraph (1) of this subsection;
- (B) Submits an acceptable-use policy that is not reasonably designed to achieve the requirements of this Code section; or
- (C) Is not enforcing or is substantially disregarding its acceptable-use policy;
- (D) Is using technology protection measures which do not meet or exceed standards and specifications established by the department to block access to material in accordance with subsection (c) of this Code section; or
- (E) Is not using any technology protection measures to block access to material in accordance with subsection (c) of this Code section.

The decision to withhold funding can be appealed to Superior Court.

This cannot be waived.

O.C.G.A. § 20-2-324.7

- In addition to an acceptable use policy, each local governing body must adopt a social media policy by April 1, 2026, that shall:
 - (1) prohibit students from accessing social media platforms through the use of computer equipment, communications services, or internet access that is operated, owned, leased, and made available to students by the local governing body, the school system, or a public school.
 - (2) Sets Consequences for students that violate the policy; and
 - (3) Creates procedures for parents to:
 - i. Request information from school personnel about what social media platforms have been or are intended to be accessed; and
 - ii. Prohibit their child from accessing one or more social media platforms

District/schools shall publish policy on website and have paper copies upon request.

- Students shall be permitted to access a social media platform <u>only</u>:
 - (i) As directed by school personnel;
 - (ii) For the exclusive purpose of accessing and utilizing age-appropriate educational resources;
 - (iii) Under the supervision of such school personnel; and
 - (iv) During the course of a school related activity.
- Social Media platform means:

"...an online forum that allows an account holder to create a profile, upload posts, view and listen to posts, form mutual connections, and interact publicly and privately with other account holders and users."

Has quite a few exceptions...

O.C.G.A. § 20-2-324.7

Local governing body shall take appropriate steps to implement policy to include:

- Use of software programs and other technologies reasonably designed and intended to block and monitor access to social media platforms; and
- (2) Selection of online servers that block and monitor access to social media platforms.



O.C.G.A. § 20-2-324.7

Once again, the policy shall be submitted to GaDOE by April 1, 2026

- Must identify the software/technology used to block access to social media platforms
- DOE shall review policy to determine compliance and will provide written notice of such
- District /school has 30 days to revise
- Can get a 30-day extension
- Can withhold state funds if school/District fails to comply with statute.
- Such decision can be appealed in Superior Court.



O.C.G.A. §20-2-751.4

Revises Bullying Statute

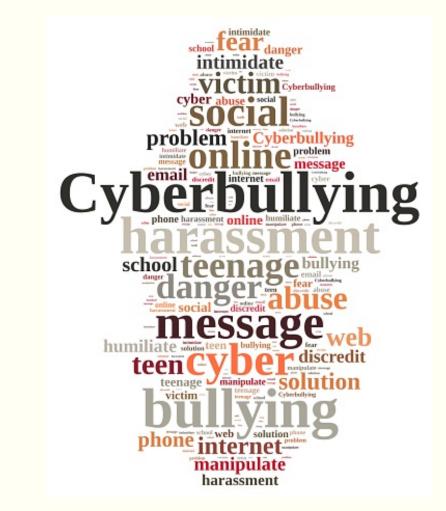
O.C.G.A. § 20-2-324.7



- Bullying now includes acts that substantially interferes with a student's education "or otherwise substantially infringing upon the rights of a student."
- Specifies that acts can take place during extracurricular activities.
- Also includes and redefines Cyberbullying to mean:
 - "...bullying that involves the use of electronic communication, including, but not limited to, communication devices and services, including, but not limited to, cellular telephones, cameras, computers, social media platforms, text messages, chat platforms, and internet sites."
- 'Electronic communication' means, but is not limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writings, images, sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photoelectronic, or photooptical system. Such term shall include photographs and video and audio recordings.

O.C.G.A. § 20-2-324.7

- By July 1, 2026, each board of education shall adopt a policy that prohibits bullying (including, cyberbullying)
- Must be included in the student code of conduct.
- The policy shall include a process to regularly evaluate and update the use of technology solutions to aid in the prevention of cyberbullying.



Social media platform provider shall use commercially reasonable efforts to verify the age of account holder

"with a level of certainty appropriate to the risks that arise from the social media platform's information management practices or shall apply the special conditions applied to minors under this chapter to all account holders."

Must treat anyone who is verified to be under the age of 16 as a minor.

Social Media Platform Means:

"an online forum that allows an account holder to create a profile, upload posts, view and listen to posts, form mutual connections, and interact publicly and privately with other account holders and users."



- Does not apply to:
 - Email;
 - service that, pursuant to its terms of use, does not permit minors (and utilizes age assurance mechanisms);
 - streaming service of licensed media;
 - News, sports, entertainment, or other content that is preselected by the provider and not user generated;
 - Online shopping or ecommerce;
 - Gaming
 - Photograph editing; Single-purpose community groups for public safety;
 - Business-to-business software;
 - Teleconferencing or videoconferencing services;
 - Cloud storage;
 - Shared document collaboration;
 - Cloud computing services;
 - Providing access to or interacting with data visualization platforms, libraries, or hubs;
 - Permitting comments on a digital news website if the news content is posted only by the provider of the digital news website;
 - Providing or obtaining technical support for a platform, product, or service;
 - Academic, scholarly, or genealogical research;
 - Internet access and broadband service;
 - A classified advertising service limited to all of the following:
 - (i) Permitting only the sale of goods;
 - (ii) Prohibiting the solicitation of personal services; (iii) Posting or creating a substantial amount of the content; and
 - (iv) Providing the ability to chat, comment, or interact with other users only if it is directly related to the provider's content;
 - An online service, website, or application that is used by or under the direction of an educational entity;
 - Peer-to-peer payments,; or
 - Career development opportunities, including professional networking, job skills, learning certifications, and job posting and application services.

Account holder means:

"a person who is a resident of this state and has an account or profile to use a social media platform, including a minor account holder."

Minor means:

"an individual who resides in this state and is actually known or reasonably believed by a social media platform to be under the age of 16 years."

 Social media platform provider shall not permit a minor to be an account holder without express consent of minor's parents/guardian



Six Ways To Obtain Consent:

Providing a form for the minor's parent or guardian to sign and return to the social media platform by common carrier, facsimile, email, or scanning;

Providing a toll-free telephone number for the minor's parent or guardian to call to consent; Coordinating a call with the minor's parent or guardian using videoconferencing technology;

Collecting information related to the minor's parent's or guardian's government issued identification or financial or payment card information and deleting such information after confirming the identity of the parent or guardian;

Allowing the minor's parent or guardian to provide consent by responding to an email and taking additional steps to verify the parent's or guardian's identity; and

Any other commercially reasonable method of obtaining consent using available technology.

 Upon parent request, providers shall make available "a list and description of the features offered by the social media platform related to censoring or moderating content available on the social media platform, including any features that can be disabled or modified by an account holder."

- For minors, providers shall prohibit:
 - (1) The display of any advertising in the minor account holder's account based on such minor account holder's personal information, except age and location; and
 - (2) The collection or use of personal information from the posts, content, messages, text, or usage activities of the minor account holder's account other than what is adequate, relevant, and reasonably necessary for the purposes for which such information is collected, as disclosed to the minor.
- A commercial entity must use a reasonable age verification method before allowing access to a public website:
 - (1) The submission of a digitized identification card, including a digital copy of a driver's license;
 - (2) The submission of government-issued identification; or
 - (3) Any commercially reasonable age verification method that meets or exceeds an Identity Assurance Level 2 standard, as defined by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.
- A commercial entity that knowingly and intentionally publishes or distributes material that is harmful to minors on a
 public website which contains a substantial portion of material that is harmful to minors is liable if the commercial
 entity fails to perform reasonable age verification of the individual attempting to access the material.

Harmful to minors means:

- Any material that the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find, taking the material as a whole and with respect to minors, is designed to appeal to, or is designed to pander to, prurient interest;
- Any of the following materials that exploit, are devoted to, or principally consist of descriptions of actual, simulated, or animated displays or depictions of any of the following, in a manner patently offensive with respect to minors:
 - (i) Nipple of the female breast, pubic hair, anus, vulva, or genitals;
 - (ii) Touching, caressing, or fondling of nipples, breasts, buttocks, the anus, or genitals; or
 - (iii) Any sexual act, including, but not limited to, sexual intercourse, masturbation, sodomy, bestiality, oral copulation, flagellation, excretory functions, and exhibitions of sexual acts; or
- The material taken as a whole lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.

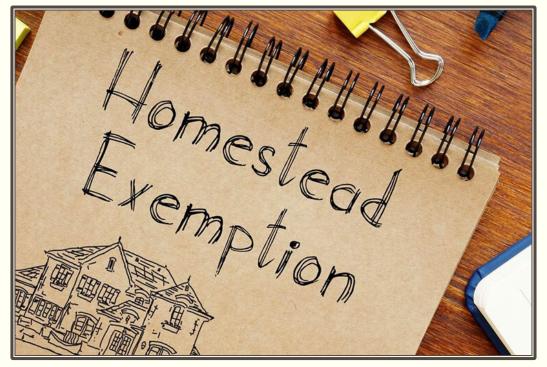
HOUSE BILL 581

Adds definition of new term Estimated roll back rate

O.C.G.A. § 48-5-2

- "(2.1) 'Estimated roll-back rate' means the current year's estimated millage rate minus the millage equivalent of the total net assessed value added by reassessments:
 - (A) As calculated and certified to the tax commissioner by the levying authority for county and educational tax purposes; and
 - (B) As calculated and certified to the collecting officer of the municipality by the levying authority for municipal tax purposes."
- Property bills will now be required to show
 - 1. Total amount of taxes owed
 - 2. Any property tax credit
 - 3. Net amount due for current year
- In those instances where millage rate adopted by a tax authority exceeds the estimated roll back rate, the bill shall contain:
 "The adopted millage rate exceeds the estimated roll-back rate as stated in the annual notice of assessment that you previously received for this taxable year, which will result in an increase in the amount of property tax that you will owe."
- Chief appraiser shall ensure every parcel in the county is appraised at least every three years.

O.C.G.A. § 48-5-2

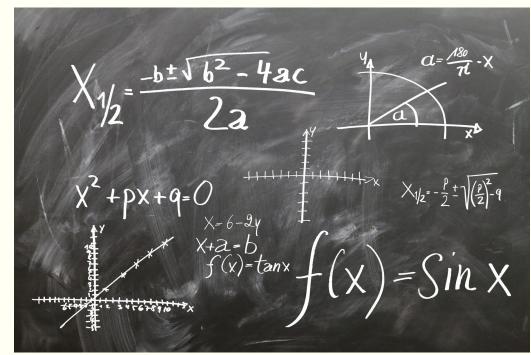


- New Homestead Exemption Statewide
- Subject to certain limitations, "each resident of this state is granted an exemption on that person's homestead from ad valorem taxes in an amount equal to the amount by which the current year assessed value of that homestead, including any final determination of value on appeal pursuant to Code Section 48-5-311, exceeds its previous adjusted base year assessed value."
- Exemption doesn't transfer to subsequent owner, however, surviving spouse continues to receive exemption while occupying residence.
- For homestead exemption first granted for taxable year 2025:
 - Base year value means assessed value for taxable year 2025 (including final determination on appeal)
 - In all other situations base year value means assessed value from immediately preceding taxable year (including final determination on appeal)

- Adjusted base year assessed value equals the sum of:
- 1. The previous adjusted base year assessed value

Plus

- 2. The difference between the current year assessed value and the base year assessed value
 - Cannot exceed the total of the previous adjusted base year assessed value multiplied by the inflation rate for the previous year.
- 3. Value of any substantial property change?





Previous adjusted base year assessed value:

- (A) With respect to the year for which the exemption under this Code section is first granted to a person on such person's homestead, the base year assessed value; or
- (B) In all other cases, the adjusted base year assessed value of the homestead as calculated in the taxable year immediately preceding the current year, including any final determination of value on appeal pursuant to Code Section 48-5-311.

- To receive the Homestead exemption, must file an application with tax receiver or commissioner or other local government charged with the duty of receiving returns for property taxation.
- Exemption is automatically renewed each year so long as owner occupies residence.



- Exemption is in <u>addition to other</u> homestead exemptions unless:
 - 1. Any other base year value homestead exemption applies
 - 2. Tax receiver/commissioner is to apply the exemption that is "larger or more beneficial" to the taxpayer
- Certain political subdivisions can opt out of the exemption:
 - 1. Must adopt an opt-out resolution by March 1, 2025
 - 2. Must hold 3 public hearings
 - 3. Advertise hearings in newspaper and website



'INTENT TO OPT OUT OF HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION The (name of governing authority) intends to opt out of the statewide adjusted base year ad valorem homestead exemption for (name of the political subdivision). All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on this matter to be held at (place of meeting) on (date and time). Times and places of additional public hearings on this matter are at (place of meeting) on (date and time).'

• Must provide a press release at same time as Notice of Hearing

After July 1, 2024, there shall not be imposed in any jurisdiction in this state or on any transaction in this state local sales taxes, local use taxes, or local sales and use taxes in excess of 2 percent. For purposes of this 2 percent limitation, the taxes affected are any sales tax, use tax, or sales and use tax which is levied in an area consisting of less than the entire state, however authorized, including such taxes authorized by or pursuant to constitutional amendment, and regardless of whether another provision of law purports to the contrary, except for the following:

ESPLOST is exempted

HOUSE BILL 51 O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1076

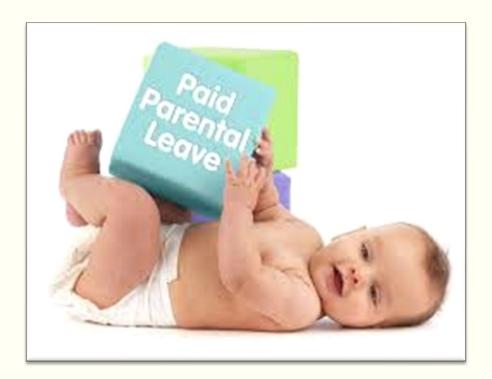
House Bill 51 ~ O.C.G.A 20-2-1076



 Allows Districts to transport any student (not just special education or homeless) in non-school busses to and from school and school related activities

HOUSE BILL 1010 O.C.G.A. § 45-20-17

- Increases paid parental leave from 120 hours to 240.
- Must provide notice of paid parental leave to each eligible employee when hired and then annually, thereafter.



SENATE BILL 105 O.C.G.A. § 47-4-101

 Increase the minimum benefit to \$17.00 multiplied by the number of years of service



SENATE BILL 233 GEORGIA PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP ACT VOUCHER

O.C.G.A. § 20-2B-1 et. seq

Georgia Promise Scholarship Act

Creates new voucher program to provide \$6,500 per child which may be used for qualified education expenses of a participating student.



Student qualifies if:

- Parents have been resident in Georgia for one year (except active-duty military)
- Enrolled in public school (currently) and has been enrolled for two consecutive FTE counts

"...that such enrollment requirement shall not apply to a child who meets all other qualifications provided for in this subsection and is eligible to enroll in a qualified kindergarten program of the public school in which such child would be enrolled based on his or her residence;"



• Student not ineligible



- 1) Is not a United States citizen or a permanent resident alien who meets the definition of an eligible noncitizen under federal Title IV requirements;
- 2) Has not complied with United States Selective Service System requirements for registration, if such requirements are applicable to the student;
- 3) Is in default on a federal Title IV educational loan or a State of Georgia educational loan, provided that a student who is otherwise eligible and has fully repaid the defaulted loan will be eligible to obtain a scholarship or grant for future academic terms but nor retroactively;
 - Owes a refund on a federal Title IV student financial aid program or a Georgia student financial aid program; provided that a student who is otherwise eligible and has fully paid the refund owed will be eligible to obtain a scholarship or grant for future academic terms but not retroactively;
 - Has been convicted of a felon offense involving marijuana, a controlled substance, or a dangerous drug as set out in Code Section 20-1-23 or 20-1-24 of the "Drug-free Postsecondary Education Act of 1990," provided that such ineligibility extends from the date of conviction to the completion of the next academic term;
- 6) Is incarcerated; or

4)

5)

7) Does no meet each qualification listed in the Code section relating to the relevant scholarship or grant and applicable to the student.

- Family's income does not exceed 400% of poverty level.
- Not receiving Georgia's Special Needs Scholarship.



Georgia Promise Scholarship Act

- Parents sign Promissory Agreement:
 - to provide student education in reading, grammar, social studies, math and science
 - not to enroll in local school district, charter or state charter school
 - use funds according to statute

ISTR Shi

Can receive \$ until age 20 (21 for Special Education students)

Georgia Promise Scholarship Act

Participating Schools must report various data to DOE and education saving authority, including:

- Aggregate attendance;
- completion rates for core courses;
- on time graduation rates; and

 "...nationally norm-referenced tests and state-wide assessments shall be provided to and collected by the education savings authority or an organization chosen by the education savings authority on an annual basis."





How much will this cost?

"(a)(1) The total amount of state funds allotted to the program each fiscal year shall not exceed 1 percent of the total appropriation for the Quality Basic Education Program in the General Appropriations Act from the previous fiscal year."

"Each subsequent school year, the amount of account funds granted to each participating student shall reflect austerity adjustments..."

Program to begin 2025-2026 school year and end 2035 unless extended.

SENATE BILL 464 O.C.G.A. § 20-2-989.31

Senate Bill 464 ~ O.C.G.A 20-2-989.31



- School Supplies for Educators Program: provides financial and technical assistance to educators that purchase school supplies online.
- State BOE will establish the program, rules and policies to implement the program:

"(c) Each local school system or public school shall certify, as required by the Department of Education, the eligibility of each educator employed by such local school system or public school who requests a user account; provided, however, that to be eligible for a user account an educator shall be employed in good standing at a public school."

 Subject to appropriation of funds by the General Assembly or availability of other funds for such purposes.

SENATE BILL 395 O.C.G.A. §20-2-776.3 Wesley's Law

Senate Bill 395~Wesley's Law

Districts shall acquire and maintain opioid antagonists "in any secure location where an individual may have an opioid overdose"

If there is a supply shortage – Districts must "make a reasonable effort" to maintain a supply.



Wesley's Law~O.C.G.A § 20-2-776.5 cont'd.



"(d) Any school personnel may administer an opioid antagonist to any person who the school personnel believes in good faith to be experiencing an opioid overdose:

(1) While in school;

(2) While at a school sponsored activity;

(3) While under the supervision of school personnel; or

(4) Before or after normal school activities, such as while in beforeschool or after-school care on school operated property. School visitors, students and personnel can carry opioid antagonist.

After administration of opioid antagonist, emergency medical services system shall be activated, and parents contacted.

- "(f) Any school personnel who in good faith administers or chooses not to administer an opioid antagonist pursuant to this Code section shall be immune from civil liability or professional discipline for any act or omission to act related to the administration of an opioid antagonist, except that such immunity shall not apply to an act of willful or wanton misconduct, recklessness, or gross negligence.
- (h) A local school system or public school, including a charter school, shall be immune from civil liability for an act or omission to act related to the implementation of the provisions of this Code section, except where such is willful or wanton, reckless, or a grossly negligent failure to comply with such provisions."

HOUSE BILL 1053

New O.C.G.A. § 50-1-12

House Bill 1053 ~ O.C.G.A. 50-1-12

 No governmental agency shall accept payment with or participate in any test of central bank digital currency

(1) 'Central bank digital currency' means a digital currency, a digital medium of exchange, or a digital monetary unit of account issued by the Federal Reserve System, a federal reserve bank, a federal agency, a foreign government, a foreign central bank, or 28 a foreign reserve system

