



## 2021 Bills That Did Not Pass

### Vouchers

**HB 60** creates a **new voucher program** called an Education Savings Account. Parents of students who meet certain criteria would be given state funding to be used for qualified education expenses at a private school or with vendors. The bill passed out of the Education Committee, but the Rules Committee did not put it on the Calendar. It is back in the **Education Committee** for the 2022 session.

**HB 142** increases the **cap on tax credits for donations to student scholarship organizations** (SSOs) from \$100 million to \$150 million. The bill also raises the cap on tax credits and adds insurance companies to the list of entities that can claim an SSO tax credit. HB 142 remains in the **House Ways and Means Committee** for the 2022 session.

**HB 517** addresses some of the recommendations made in the state audit of January 2021. It also increased the amount of the income tax credit allowable. It passed the House; the Senate made some changes and passed it; it remains in the **House for agreement** to the Senate changes.

### Controversial Topics

**SB 226, “the library bill,”** requires school boards to adopt complaint resolution policies for a parent who is concerned that a school provided ‘material harmful to minors’ to their child and provides a process to be followed. The bill passed the Senate. The House Non-Civil Judiciary Committee passed it, but Rules did not put it on the calendar. It goes back to the **House Non-Civil Judiciary Committee**. A House version of the bill, **HB 516**, remains in the same Committee.

**HB 276** is one of three bills limiting girls’ sports to those born biologically girls. It would waive sovereign immunity for school districts. The bill received a hearing but no vote and remains in a **House Education Subcommittee**.

**HB 372** also addresses who can participate in girls’ sports. The bill did not get a hearing but remains in the **House Education Committee**.

**SB 266**, the Save Girls Sports Act, is the third bill on the topic. It passed the Senate Education Committee, but Rules did not put it on the calendar. A floor amendment was prepared to attach the bill to HB 681, but the bill was **tabled**.

**HB 120** provides that students who are part of the Deferred Action of Childhood Arrivals (**DACA**) **program** will be permitted to pay an ‘opportunity **tuition**’ **rate** that is similar to in-state tuition at a Georgia technical college or university if they meet certain requirements. HB 120 passed out of the House Higher Education Committee, but the Rules Committee did not put

it on the calendar. It will be back in the **House Higher Education Committee** for the 2022 session.

**HB 352** proposes several **changes to property taxes** including a statewide floating homestead exemption, extending the period to file an appeal from 45 days to 180, and allowing a property owner to submit a certified appraisal conducted within the six months prior to March 1 instead of the county valuation. The bill never received a hearing and remains in the **House Ways and Means Committee** for the 2022 session.

**HB 109** extends the current **statute of limitations for childhood sexual abuse** under certain circumstances and provides for retroactive claims for childhood sexual abuse under certain circumstances. The plaintiff could file those claims when between the ages of 23 and 38. This bill expressly waives sovereign immunity and government immunity protection to the extent of liability. The bill passed the House and is now in the **Senate Judiciary Committee**.

### Government

**HB 24** requires notices of **annexation** include any proposed tax abatements, rebates, or incentives that a city or development authority will provide. It proposes changes to the annexation dispute process. This bill remains in the **House Government Affairs Committee**. The House approved a study committee to look at this issue (HR 222).

**HB 66** gives a school board the right to be heard ("standing") at a **revenue bond validation hearing**. This bill remains in the **House Government Affairs Committee**.

**SB 218** would require public officials to be suspended without pay after being indicted. It passed the Senate. The House attached an additional bill, and the Senate disagreed. It remains in the **House to insist or recede** on its position.

**HB 248** removes authority from schools to apply for **speed zone cameras**. The bill passed the House, and it is in the **Senate Government Oversight Committee**. The House also attached it to SB 115. The Senate motion to agree failed.

**SB 148** would have created the **Special Council on Tax Reform and Fairness for Georgians and the Special Joint Committee on Georgia Revenue Structure**. It passed the Senate unanimously but received only 20 votes in the House, so it is dead.

### Education

**HB 385** allows **retired teachers** in certain high needs areas, as designed by the Department of Education, to **return to work** full time. Teachers who return to work would still draw down their TRS benefit, but not accrue additional time. Local districts would be required to pay the employer and employee share of TRS. This bill required the two-year process for retirement bills so is eligible for passage in the 2022 session. It is in the **House Retirement Committee**.

**HB 681** requires a personal financial literacy curriculum for high school students that can be included in other courses. The bill passed the House. The Senate stripped the bill and made it the Dexter Mosely Act to allow homeschoolers to participate in extracurricular sports. A senate floor amendment would have added SB 266, the Save Girls Sports Act. The bill was **tabled** in the Senate and the Dexter Mosely Act was passed as part of SB 42. **See SB 220** and the House second attempt to pass it.

**SB 106** encourages districts to provide wrap-around services before expelling or suspending a student for more than 5 days (consecutive or cumulative). The bill passed the Senate and is now in the **House Education Committee**.

**SB 220**, the Georgia Civics Renewal Act, creates a Commission to review the conditions needs, issues, and problems related to civics education in GA schools. The bill passed the Senate. The House passed a substitute bill which stripped the language about the Commission and added HB 681, the financial literacy bill. The Senate agreed but added the Commission language. It remains in the **House for agreement/disagreement**. The House also had a Civics Commission bill, **HB 589**, that made it to House Rules but did not make it to the floor for a vote. It goes back to the **House Education Committee**.

**SB 240** allows local districts to require, as a condition of graduation, eleventh or twelfth graders to complete an instructional program on the critical role elections play in Georgia and the United States. It passed the Senate Education & Youth Committee but was **tabled** on the Senate floor.