

Senate Bill 603

By: Senators Rahman of the 5th and Hatchett of the 50th

**AS PASSED SENATE**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 11 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to public school property and facilities, so as to provide for an outdoor learning  
3 spaces pilot program; to provide for a pilot program evaluation and report; to provide for  
4 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Article 11 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
8 public school property and facilities, is amended by adding a new part to read as follows:

9 "Part 4

10 20-2-590.

11 (a) The Department of Education is authorized to establish a pilot program, beginning in  
12 the 2022-2023 school year, to provide for the development and study of outdoor learning  
13 spaces on elementary and secondary school property. The purpose of the pilot program

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14 shall be to determine whether and how to implement minimum state-wide standards and  
15 funding for outdoor learning spaces.

16 (b) The Department of Education is authorized to select a minimum of two elementary or  
17 secondary schools with sufficient existing or potential outdoor learning spaces for  
18 participation in the pilot program. The program may provide funding to the pilot schools  
19 for community engagement, school grounds design support, and capital construction costs.  
20 The local school board for the pilot schools shall agree to implement a program to  
21 incorporate outdoor learning spaces into the existing curriculum and to continue to provide  
22 such program for a period no shorter than three years.

23 (c) The Department of Education shall provide for an evaluation regarding the success and  
24 impact of the pilot program upon completion of the third year of the pilot program and  
25 shall report the results of such evaluation to the Senate and House Committees on  
26 Agriculture and Consumer Affairs and the House Committee on Education and the Senate  
27 Education and Youth Committee."

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## **SECTION 2.**

29 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.