

## **HB 1217 Summary**

### **2022 Legislative Session**

#### **House Bill 1217—Student Technology Protection Act**

Sponsored by Rep. Chris Erwin (R-Homer)

#### **Key Components**

- Updates definitions of child pornography, content harmful to minors, obscene materials, and internet as they apply to districts' internet use policies. The bill also defines a technology protection measure.
- Requires local boards of education to adopt, implement and update an acceptable-use policy that prohibits child pornography, harmful content and obscene materials on district internet networks and devices. Districts would also establish measures if students or staff violated the acceptable-use policy as well as a parent complaint process for alleged violations of the policy.
- Mandates districts to annually provide parents an opportunity to restrict their children's internet use while at school.
- Requires the Georgia Department of Education to establish compliance standards and specifications for technology protection measures. The department would also provide technical assistance to districts and develop guidelines for trainings on cybersecurity and related topics.
- Expands criteria the state board of education uses to annually review districts' acceptable-use policies.
- Incorporates promotion of safe and appropriate technology use and responsible digital citizenship in character education programs.