

House Bill 1158

By: Representatives Jackson of the 68th, Drenner of the 85th, Barnes of the 86th, Taylor of the 92nd, and Bazemore of the 69th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 6 of Title 19 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to general provisions regarding alimony and child support, so as to authorize
3 postmajority child support when such child is enrolled in and attending an institution of
4 postsecondary education; to provide for conditions and requirements; to require courts to
5 consider certain factors when determining the amount of such support; to provide for
6 enforcement of such support; to provide for an effective date and applicability; to provide for
7 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

10 Article 1 of Chapter 6 of Title 19 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
11 general provisions regarding alimony and child support, is amended by revising
12 subsection (e) of Code Section 19-6-15, relating to child support guidelines for determining
13 amount of award, continuation of duty of support, and duration of support, as follows:

14 "(e)(1) **Duration of child support responsibility.** The duty to provide support for a
15 minor child shall continue until the child reaches the age of majority, dies, marries, or
16 becomes emancipated, whichever first occurs; provided, however, that, in any temporary,

17 final, or modified order for child support with respect to any proceeding for divorce,
18 separate maintenance, legitimacy, or paternity entered on or after July 1, 1992, the court,
19 in the exercise of sound discretion, may direct either or both parents to provide financial
20 assistance to a child who has not previously married or become emancipated, who is
21 enrolled in and attending a secondary school, and who has attained the age of majority
22 before completing his or her secondary school education, provided that such financial
23 assistance shall not be required after a child attains 20 years of age. The provisions for
24 child support provided in this subsection may be enforced by either parent, by any
25 nonparent custodian, by a guardian appointed to receive child support for the child for
26 whose benefit the child support is ordered, or by the child for whose benefit the child
27 support is ordered.

28 **(2) Duration of child support for postsecondary education. In any temporary, final,**
29 **or modified order for child support with respect to any proceeding for divorce, separate**
30 **maintenance, legitimacy, or paternity entered on or after July 1, 2024, the court, in the**
31 **exercise of sound discretion, may direct either or both parents to provide financial**
32 **assistance to a child who is enrolled in and attending a technical school, vocational**
33 **school, college, university, or other institution of postsecondary education, provided that**
34 **such financial assistance shall not be required after a child attains 24 years of age. The**
35 **court shall require verification of such enrollment and attendance. In determining the**
36 **amount of such financial assistance, the court shall consider the amount of tuition as well**
37 **as additional fees and expenses related to such enrollment and attendance. The**
38 **provisions for child support provided in this paragraph may be enforced by either parent,**
39 **by any nonparent custodian, by a guardian appointed to receive child support for the child**
40 **for whose benefit the child support is ordered, or by the child for whose benefit the child**
41 **support is ordered."**

42 **SECTION 2.**

43 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2024, and shall apply to all causes of actions
44 accruing on or after such date.

45 **SECTION 3.**

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