

House Bill 961

By: Representatives Abrams of the 89<sup>th</sup>, Benton of the 31<sup>st</sup>, Sharper of the 177<sup>th</sup>, and Bennett of the 94<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 1 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 general provisions applicable to social services, so as to authorize units of state government  
3 to provide all subsidies available to kinship caregivers or to the children in their care based  
4 on the eligibility of such children and not on the income or age of the kinship caregiver; to  
5 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 1 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general  
9 provisions applicable to social services, is amended by adding a new Code section to read  
10 as follows:

11 "49-1-8.

12 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

13 (1) 'Basic necessities' means water, electricity, gas, power, light, heat, telephone, or other  
14 public utility services.

15 (2) 'Child' means any person under 18 years of age.

16 (3) 'Kinship caregiver' means a grandparent, aunt, uncle, great aunt, great uncle, cousins,  
17 sibling, or close family friend of a child who has assumed responsibility for raising such  
18 child in an informal, noncustodial, or guardianship capacity upon the parents of such  
19 child losing or abdicating the ability to care for or provide basic necessities for such child.

20 (4) 'Parents' means the legal father and the legal mother of a child.

21 (5) 'Subsidy' means any funds, grants, aid, support, and tax deductions provided by the  
22 State of Georgia.

23 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all departments, agencies, boards, bureaus,  
24 commissions, authorities, and other units of state government, by whatever name called,  
25 and all officers, officials, employees, and agents thereof, shall have the authority to  
26 provide, and shall take all necessary steps to so provide, that all subsidies, to the extent

27 allowed by federal law, available to kinship caregivers or the children in their care shall be  
28 based solely on the eligibility of such children instead of the income of the kinship  
29 caregiver or the kinship caregiver's family or the age of the kinship caregiver."

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**SECTION 2.**

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