

Senate Bill 20

By: Senators Payne of the 54th, Mullis of the 53rd, Strickland of the 17th, Parent of the 42nd,
Cowsert of the 46th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 11 of Chapter 11 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to the "Georgia Child Advocate for the Protection of Children Act," so as to revise
3 the composition of the Child Advocate Advisory Committee; to repeal conflicting laws; and
4 for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

7 Article 11 of Chapter 11 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
8 the "Georgia Child Advocate for the Protection of Children Act," is amended by revising
9 Code Section 15-11-747, relating to the Child Advocate Advisory Committee, committee
10 membership, and the role of the committee, as follows:

11 "15-11-747.

12 (a) There is established a Child Advocate Advisory Committee. The advisory committee
13 shall consist of:

- 14 (1) One representative of a not for profit children's agency appointed by the Governor;
15 (2) One representative of a for profit children's agency appointed by the Lieutenant
16 Governor;
17 (3) One pediatrician appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

- 18 (4) One social worker with experience and knowledge of child protective services who
 19 is not employed by the state appointed by the Governor;
- 20 (5) One psychologist appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;
- 21 (6) One attorney from the Children and the Courts Committee of the State Bar of
 22 Georgia appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; ~~and~~
- 23 (7) One current or former foster parent appointed by the Governor;
- 24 (8) One former foster child who attained the age of majority or graduated from high
 25 school while still in the Georgia foster care system appointed by the Lieutenant
 26 Governor;
- 27 (9) One individual who has served for at least three years as a court appointed special
 28 advocate (CASA) appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and
- 29 ~~(7)~~(10) One juvenile court judge appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
- 30 Each member of the advisory committee shall serve a two-year term and until the
 31 appointment and qualification of such member's successor. Appointments to fill vacancies
 32 in such offices shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.
- 33 (b) The advisory committee shall meet a minimum of three times a year with the advocate
 34 and his or her staff to review and assess the following:
- 35 (1) Patterns of treatment and service for children;
- 36 (2) Policy implications; and
- 37 (3) Necessary systemic improvements.
- 38 The advisory committee shall also provide for an annual evaluation of the effectiveness of
 39 the Office of the Child Advocate for the Protection of Children."

40 **SECTION 2.**

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