

Senate Bill 367

By: Senators Kennedy of the 18th, Miller of the 49th, Dugan of the 30th, Jones of the 25th, Kirk of the 13th and others

**AS PASSED**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To provide for comprehensive reform for offenders entering, proceeding through, and  
 2 leaving the criminal justice system so as to promote an offender's successful reentry into  
 3 society, benefit the public, and enact reforms recommended by the Georgia Council on  
 4 Criminal Justice Reform; to amend Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
 5 relating to courts, so as to create operating under the influence court divisions and family  
 6 treatment court divisions; to provide for assignment of cases, planning groups, work plans,  
 7 standards and practices, staffing and expenses, records, fees, grants, and donations; to  
 8 provide for oversight by the Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia; to change  
 9 the composition of the Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia; to provide for  
 10 record restriction in accountability courts under certain circumstances; to provide for  
 11 considerations relative to the detention of children under the age of 14; to authorize a state  
 12 or local governing authority to contract for services for Pretrial Intervention and Diversion  
 13 Programs; to provide for the collection of fees for and expenditures of funds from the County  
 14 Drug Abuse Treatment Education Fund relative to operating under the influence and family  
 15 treatment court divisions; to amend Titles 20, 42, and 49 of the Official Code of Georgia  
 16 Annotated, relating to education, penal institutions, and social services, respectively, so as  
 17 to provide for students incarcerated in Department of Corrections facilities or incarcerated  
 18 or committed to Department of Juvenile Justice facilities to receive educational services  
 19 through a state charter school; to provide for state funding for the education of such students  
 20 in the same manner as for other students enrolled in the state charter school; to amend Title  
 21 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, so to provide for matters  
 22 relating to school discipline and disrupting the operation of public schools; to amend Chapter  
 23 5 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to drivers' licenses, so as  
 24 to create better opportunities for defendants to regain driving privileges; to provide for a  
 25 pauper's affidavit for a partial waiver of driver's license reinstatement and restoration fees;  
 26 to provide for concurrent driver's license suspensions and revocations under certain  
 27 circumstances; to change provisions relating to determining the length of certain driver's

28 license revocations; to limit eligibility for indefinitely renewable limited driving permits; to  
29 provide for certain drivers' licenses to be automatically reinstated; to provide for procedure;  
30 to allow operating under the influence court divisions to restore or suspend an operating  
31 under the influence court division participant's driver's license or issue a participant a limited  
32 driving permit or ignition interlock device limited driving permit under certain  
33 circumstances; to amend Title 42 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
34 penal institutions, so as to clarify responsibilities of the Board of Community Supervision  
35 and the Department of Community Supervision; to provide for an offender transition and  
36 reentry unit and misdemeanor probation unit within the Department of Community  
37 Supervision; to amend Chapter 8 of Title 42, Article 2 of Chapter 7 of Title 17, and Article  
38 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to probation,  
39 commitment hearings, and the Georgia Crime Information Center, respectively, so as to  
40 clarify first offender status and provide duties, obligations, and responsibilities for the clerk  
41 of court, the Department of Community Supervision, probation officers serving pursuant to  
42 Article 6 of Chapter 8 of Title 42, and the Department of Corrections; to specify entities to  
43 whom first offender information shall be provided; to change provisions relating to first  
44 offender dispositions and the release of records thereof; to provide for the reporting of cases  
45 dismissed prior to filing an accusation or indictment; to provide for procedure; to enact  
46 reforms relating to criminal record keeping and dissemination; to clarify duties and  
47 responsibilities for criminal record keeping and dissemination; to clarify provisions relating  
48 to record restriction; to allow record restriction for certain first offenders who were under 21  
49 years of age and accused of certain alcohol related violations; to amend Title 42 of the  
50 Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to penal institutions, so as to change provisions  
51 relating to agreements for probation services; to provide for preliminary requirements for  
52 revocations based solely on failure to pay fines, statutory surcharges, or probation  
53 supervision fees or solely on failure to report; to provide for procedure; to provide for early  
54 termination of probation and review of certain misdemeanor probation cases under certain  
55 circumstances; to change provisions relating to parole eligibility for certain offenders; to  
56 repeal obsolete references to pretrial diversion programs that are no longer operated by the  
57 Department of Corrections or the Department of Community Supervision; to amend Chapter  
58 1 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions  
59 applicable to professions and businesses, so as to require professional licensing boards to  
60 consider certain factors relating to felonies before denying a license to an applicant or  
61 revoking a license and to provide for probationary licenses for participants in accountability  
62 courts; to amend Article 1 of Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia  
63 Annotated, relating to general provisions for public assistance, so as to provide for eligibility  
64 for food stamps under certain circumstances; to amend Code Section 49-4A-2 of the Official

65 Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the creation of the Board of Juvenile Justice, so as  
 66 to provide for rules and regulations governing the transfer of probation supervision of certain  
 67 juvenile offenders; to amend the Official Code of Georgia Annotated so as to conform  
 68 provisions and correct cross-references; to provide for an effective date and applicability; to  
 69 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

70 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

71 PART I  
 72 EXPANDING ACCOUNTABILITY COURTS AND  
 73 PRETRIAL INTERVENTION AND DIVERSION PROGRAMS;  
 74 DETENTION OF YOUTH  
 75 SECTION 1-1.

76 Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to courts, is amended by revising  
 77 paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of Code Section 15-1-18, relating to the Council of  
 78 Accountability Court Judges of Georgia, as follows:

79 "(1) 'Accountability court' means a superior, state, or juvenile court that has a drug court  
 80 division, mental health court division, or veterans court division, or operating under the  
 81 influence court division or a juvenile court that has a family treatment court division."

82 SECTION 1-2.

83 Said title is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

84 "15-1-19.

85 (a)(1) As used in this subsection, the term 'risk and needs assessment' means an actuarial  
 86 tool, approved by the Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia and validated  
 87 on a targeted population, scientifically proven to determine an individual's risk to  
 88 recidivate and to identify criminal risk factors that, when properly addressed, can reduce  
 89 such individual's likelihood of committing future criminal behavior.

90 (2) Any superior, state, or juvenile court that has jurisdiction over a violation of Code  
 91 Section 40-6-391 or 52-7-12 may establish an operating under the influence court  
 92 division to provide an alternative to the traditional judicial system for disposition of such  
 93 cases.

94 (3) In any case which arises from a violation of Code Section 40-6-391 or 52-7-12 or is  
 95 ancillary to such conduct and the defendant meets the eligibility criteria for the operating  
 96 under the influence court division, the court may assign the case to the operating under  
 97 the influence court division:

98 (A) Prior to the entry of the sentence, if the prosecuting attorney consents;

99 (B) As part of a sentence in a case; or

100 (C) Upon consideration of a petition to revoke probation.

101 (4) Each operating under the influence court division shall establish a planning group to  
102 develop a work plan. The planning group shall include the judges, prosecuting attorneys,  
103 public defenders, community supervision officers, probation officers serving pursuant to  
104 Article 6 of Chapter 8 of Title 42, and persons having expertise in the field of substance  
105 abuse. The work plan shall address the operational, coordination, resource, information  
106 management, and evaluation needs of the operating under the influence court division.  
107 The work plan shall include operating under the influence court division policies and  
108 practices related to implementing the standards and practices developed pursuant to  
109 paragraph (5) of this subsection. The work plan shall ensure a risk and needs assessment  
110 is used to identify the likelihood of recidivating and identify the needs that, when met,  
111 reduce recidivism. The work plan also shall ensure that operating under the influence  
112 court division eligibility shall be focused on moderate-risk and high-risk offenders as  
113 determined by a risk and needs assessment. The operating under the influence court  
114 division shall combine judicial supervision, treatment of operating under the influence  
115 court division participants, and drug testing.

116 (5)(A) The Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia shall establish standards  
117 and practices for operating under the influence court divisions, taking into consideration  
118 guidelines and principles based on current research and findings that are published by  
119 the National Drug Court Institute, the National Center for DWI Courts, and the  
120 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and related to practices  
121 shown to reduce recidivism of offenders with alcohol or drug abuse problems.  
122 Standards and practices shall include, but shall not be limited to, the use of a risk and  
123 needs assessment to identify the likelihood of recidivating and identify the needs that,  
124 when met, reduce recidivism. The Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia  
125 shall update its standards and practices to incorporate research, findings, and  
126 developments in the operating under the influence court field. Each operating under the  
127 influence court division shall adopt policies and practices that are consistent with the  
128 standards and practices published by the Council of Accountability Court Judges of  
129 Georgia.

130 (B) The Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia shall provide technical  
131 assistance to operating under the influence court divisions to assist them with the  
132 implementation of policies and practices, including, but not limited to, guidance on the  
133 implementation of risk and needs assessments in operating under the influence court  
134 divisions.

135 (C) The Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia shall create and manage  
136 a certification and peer review process to ensure operating under the influence court  
137 divisions are adhering to the Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia's  
138 standards and practices and shall create a waiver process for operating under the  
139 influence court divisions to seek an exception to the Council of Accountability Court  
140 Judges of Georgia's standards and practices. In order to receive state appropriated  
141 funds, any operating under the influence court division established on and after July 1,  
142 2017, shall be certified pursuant to this subparagraph or, for good cause shown to the  
143 Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia, shall receive a waiver from the  
144 Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia.

145 (D) On and after July 1, 2017, the award of any state funds for an operating under the  
146 influence court division shall be conditioned upon an operating under the influence  
147 court division attaining certification or a waiver by the Council of Accountability Court  
148 Judges of Georgia. On or before September 1, the Council of Accountability Court  
149 Judges of Georgia shall publish an annual report listing certified operating under the  
150 influence court divisions.

151 (E) The Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia shall develop and manage  
152 an electronic information system for performance measurement and accept submission  
153 of performance data in a consistent format from all operating under the influence court  
154 divisions. The Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia shall identify  
155 elements necessary for performance measurement, including, but not limited to,  
156 recidivism, the number of moderate-risk and high-risk participants in an operating  
157 under the influence court division, drug testing results, drug testing failures, participant  
158 employment, the number of participants who successfully complete the program, and  
159 the number of participants who fail to complete the program.

160 (F) On or before July 1, 2017, and every three years thereafter, the Council of  
161 Accountability Court Judges of Georgia shall conduct a performance peer review of the  
162 operating under the influence court divisions for the purpose of improving operating  
163 under the influence court division policies and practices and the certification and  
164 recertification process.

165 (6) A court instituting the operating under the influence court division may request the  
166 prosecuting attorney for the jurisdiction to designate one or more prosecuting attorneys  
167 to serve in the operating under the influence court division and may request the public  
168 defender, if any, to designate one or more assistant public defenders to serve in the  
169 operating under the influence court division.

170 (7) The clerk of court for the court that is instituting the operating under the influence  
171 court division or such clerk's designee shall serve as the clerk of the operating under the  
172 influence court division.

173 (8) The court instituting the operating under the influence court division may request  
174 community supervision officers, probation officers serving pursuant to Article 6 of  
175 Chapter 8 of Title 42, and other employees of the court to perform duties for the  
176 operating under the influence court division. Such individuals shall perform duties as  
177 directed by the judges of the operating under the influence court division.

178 (9) The court instituting the operating under the influence court division may enter into  
179 agreements with other courts, agencies, and private corporations, private enterprises,  
180 private agencies, or private entities providing services pursuant to Article 6 of Chapter  
181 8 of Title 42 for the assignment of personnel from such other entities to the operating  
182 under the influence court division.

183 (10) Expenses for salaries, equipment, services, and supplies incurred in implementing  
184 this Code section may be paid from state funds, funds of the county or political  
185 subdivision implementing such operating under the influence court division, federal grant  
186 funds, and funds from private donations.

187 (b)(1) Each operating under the influence court division shall establish criteria which  
188 define the successful completion of the operating under the influence court division  
189 program.

190 (2) If the operating under the influence court division participant successfully completes  
191 the operating under the influence court division program as part of a sentence imposed  
192 by the court:

193 (A) A judge presiding in such court division shall not order the dismissal of any  
194 offense involving or arising from a violation of Code Section 40-6-391 or 52-7-12; and

195 (B) A judge presiding in such court division shall not order the restriction or vacation  
196 of a conviction of any offense involving or arising from a violation of Code Section  
197 40-6-391 or 52-7-12.

198 (3) If the operating under the influence court division participant successfully completes  
199 the operating under the influence court division program as part of a sentence imposed  
200 by the court, the sentence of the operating under the influence court division participant  
201 may be reduced or modified.

202 (4) Any plea of guilty or nolo contendere entered pursuant to this Code section shall not  
203 be withdrawn without the consent of the court.

204 (c) Any statement made by an operating under the influence court division participant as  
205 part of participation in such court division, or any report made by the staff of such court  
206 division or program connected to such court division, regarding a participant's substance

207 usage shall not be admissible as evidence against the participant in any legal proceeding  
 208 or prosecution; provided, however, that, if the participant violates the conditions of his or  
 209 her participation in the program or is terminated from the operating under the influence  
 210 court division, the reasons for the violation or termination may be considered in  
 211 sanctioning, sentencing, or otherwise disposing of the participant's case.

212 (d) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, operating under the influence  
 213 court division staff shall be provided, upon request, with access to all records relevant to  
 214 the treatment of the operating under the influence court division participant from any state  
 215 or local government agency. All such records and the contents thereof shall be treated as  
 216 confidential, shall not be disclosed to any person outside of the operating under the  
 217 influence court division, and shall not be subject to Article 4 of Chapter 18 of Title 50,  
 218 relating to open records, or subject to subpoena, discovery, or introduction into evidence  
 219 in any civil or criminal proceeding. Such records and the contents thereof shall be  
 220 maintained by the operating under the influence court division and originating court in a  
 221 confidential file not available to the public.

222 (e) Any fees received by an operating under the influence court division from an operating  
 223 under the influence court division participant as payment for substance abuse treatment and  
 224 services shall not be considered as court costs or a fine.

225 (f) The court may have the authority to accept grants, donations, and other proceeds from  
 226 outside sources for the purpose of supporting the operating under the influence court  
 227 division. Any such grants, donations, or proceeds shall be retained by the operating under  
 228 the influence court division for expenses."

229 **SECTION 1-3.**

230 Said title is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

231 "15-1-20.

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

233 (1) 'Accountability court' means a superior or state court that has a drug court division,  
 234 mental health court division, or veterans court division or a juvenile court that has a  
 235 family treatment court division.

236 (2) 'Criminal history record information' shall have the same meaning as set forth in  
 237 Code Section 35-3-30.

238 (3) 'Criminal justice agencies' shall have the same meaning as set forth in Code Section  
 239 35-3-30.

240 (4) 'Restrict,' 'restricted,' or 'restriction' means that criminal history record information  
 241 shall not be disclosed or otherwise made available to any private persons or businesses

242 pursuant to Code Section 35-3-34 or to governmental agencies or licensing and regulating  
 243 agencies pursuant to Code Section 35-3-35.

244 (b) When a case is assigned to an accountability court and the defendant is required to  
 245 complete a drug court division program, mental health court division program, veterans  
 246 court division program, or family treatment court division program, as applicable, prior to  
 247 the entry of the judgment, in contemplation that the defendant's case will be dismissed or  
 248 nolle prossed, the court may, in its discretion, restrict the dissemination of the defendant's  
 249 criminal history record information by the Georgia Crime Information Center for the  
 250 prosecution of the case assigned to such court. The court shall specify the date such  
 251 restriction shall take effect. The court may revoke such order at any time.

252 (c)(1) Criminal history record information restricted pursuant to this Code section shall  
 253 always be available for inspection, copying, and use:

254 (A) To criminal justice agencies for law enforcement or criminal investigative  
 255 purposes or for purposes of criminal justice agency employment;

256 (B) To judicial officials;

257 (C) By the Judicial Qualifications Commission;

258 (D) By a prosecuting attorney or public defender who submits a sworn affidavit to the  
 259 clerk of court that attests that such information is relevant to a criminal proceeding;

260 (E) Pursuant to a court order; and

261 (F) By an individual who is the subject of restricted criminal history record information  
 262 upon court order.

263 (2) The confidentiality of such information shall be maintained insofar as practical."

264 **SECTION 1-4.**

265 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 15-11-11, relating to concurrent  
 266 jurisdiction, as follows:

267 "15-11-11.

268 The juvenile court shall have concurrent jurisdiction to hear:

269 (1) Any legitimation petition filed pursuant to Code Section 19-7-22 concerning a child  
 270 alleged to be dependent;

271 (2) Any legitimation petition transferred to the court by proper order of the superior  
 272 court;

273 (3) The issue of custody and support when the issue is transferred by proper order of the  
 274 superior court; provided, however, that if a demand for a jury trial as to support has been  
 275 properly filed by either parent, then the case shall be transferred to superior court for the  
 276 jury trial; and



277 (4) Any petition for the establishment or termination of a temporary guardianship  
 278 transferred to the court by proper order of the probate court; and  
 279 (5) Any criminal case transferred to the court pursuant to subsection (d) of Code Section  
 280 15-11-15."

#### 281 SECTION 1-5.

282 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 15-11-15, relating to transfers from  
 283 superior court, as follows:

284 "15-11-15.

285 (a) In handling divorce, alimony, habeas corpus, or other cases involving the custody of  
 286 a child, a superior court may transfer the question of the determination of custody, support,  
 287 or custody and support to the juvenile court either for investigation and a report back to the  
 288 superior court or for investigation and determination.

289 (b) If the referral is for investigation and determination, then the juvenile court shall  
 290 proceed to handle the matter in the same manner as though the action originated under this  
 291 chapter in compliance with the order of the superior court, except that the parties shall not  
 292 be entitled to obtain an appointed attorney through the juvenile court.

293 (c) At any time prior to the determination of any ~~such~~ question regarding custody, support,  
 294 or custody and support, the juvenile court may transfer the jurisdiction of the question back  
 295 to the referring superior court.

296 (d) In handling criminal cases involving an accused who is in jeopardy of having his or her  
 297 parental rights terminated due to criminal charges, a superior court may transfer a criminal  
 298 case to a family treatment court division of a juvenile court for treatment and a report back  
 299 to the superior court so long as the prosecuting attorney and accused agree to such transfer;  
 300 provided, however, that such juvenile court may transfer such case back to the referring  
 301 superior court at any time."

#### 302 SECTION 1-6.

303 Said title is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

304 "15-11-70.

305 (a)(1) As used in this subsection, the term 'risk and needs assessment' means an actuarial  
 306 tool, approved by the Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia and validated  
 307 on a targeted population, scientifically proven to determine an individual's risk to  
 308 recidivate and to identify criminal risk factors that, when properly addressed, can reduce  
 309 such individual's likelihood of committing future criminal behavior.

310 (2) Any juvenile court may establish a family treatment court division to provide an  
 311 alternative to the traditional judicial system for the disposition of dependancy cases and

312 for assisting superior courts with criminal cases referred to such division under Code  
313 Section 15-11-15. The goal of a family treatment court division is to:

314 (A) Reduce alcohol or drug abuse and addiction for respondents in dependency  
315 proceedings;

316 (B) Improve permanency outcomes for families when dependency is based in part on  
317 alcohol or drug use and addiction;

318 (C) Increase the personal, familial, and societal accountability of respondents in  
319 dependency proceedings; and

320 (D) Promote effective intervention and use of resources among child welfare  
321 personnel, law enforcement agencies, treatment providers, community agencies, and  
322 the courts.

323 (3) In any criminal case transferred pursuant to Code Section 15-11-15, when the  
324 defendant meets the eligibility criteria for the family treatment court division, such case  
325 may be assigned to the family treatment court division:

326 (A) Prior to the entry of the sentence, if the prosecuting attorney consents;

327 (B) As part of a sentence in a case; or

328 (C) Upon consideration of a petition to revoke probation.

329 (4) Each family treatment court division shall establish a planning group to develop a  
330 work plan. The planning group shall include the judges, prosecuting attorneys, special  
331 assistant attorneys general, public defenders, attorneys who represent children and  
332 parents, law enforcement officials, probation officers, community supervision officers,  
333 court appointed special advocates, guardians ad litem, and other individuals having  
334 expertise in services available to families in dependency proceedings. The work plan  
335 shall address the operational, coordination, resource, information management, and  
336 evaluation needs of the family treatment court division. The work plan shall include  
337 family treatment court division policies and practices related to implementing the  
338 standards and practices developed pursuant to paragraph (5) of this subsection. The work  
339 plan shall ensure a risk and needs assessment is used to identify the likelihood of  
340 recidivating and identify the needs that, when met, reduce recidivism. The work plan  
341 shall include eligibility criteria for the family treatment court division. The family  
342 treatment court division shall combine judicial supervision, treatment of family treatment  
343 court division participants, drug testing, and mental health treatment.

344 (5)(A) The Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia shall establish standards  
345 and practices for family treatment court divisions, taking into consideration guidelines  
346 and principles based on current research and findings that are published by experts on  
347 family treatment health needs and treatment options in a dependency setting. Standards  
348 and practices shall include, but shall not be limited to, the use of a risk and needs

349 assessment to identify the likelihood of recidivating and identify the needs that, when  
350 met, reduce recidivism. The Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia shall  
351 update its standards and practices to incorporate research, findings, and developments  
352 in the family treatment court field. Each family treatment court division shall adopt  
353 policies and practices that are consistent with the standards and practices published by  
354 the Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia.

355 (B) The Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia shall provide technical  
356 assistance to family treatment court divisions to assist them with the implementation  
357 of policies and practices, including, but not limited to, guidance on the implementation  
358 of risk and needs assessments in family treatment court divisions.

359 (C) The Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia shall create and manage  
360 a certification and peer review process to ensure family treatment court divisions are  
361 adhering to the Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia's standards and  
362 practices and shall create a waiver process for family treatment court divisions to seek  
363 an exception to the Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia's standards and  
364 practices. In order to receive state appropriated funds, any family treatment court  
365 division established on and after July 1, 2017, shall be certified pursuant to this  
366 subparagraph or, for good cause shown to the Council of Accountability Court Judges  
367 of Georgia, shall receive a waiver from the Council of Accountability Court Judges of  
368 Georgia.

369 (D) On and after July 1, 2017, the award of any state funds for a family treatment court  
370 division shall be conditioned upon a family treatment court division attaining  
371 certification or a waiver by the Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia. On  
372 or before September 1, the Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia shall  
373 publish an annual report listing certified family treatment court divisions.

374 (E) The Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia shall develop and manage  
375 an electronic information system for performance measurement and accept submission  
376 of performance data in a consistent format from all family treatment court divisions.  
377 The Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia shall identify elements  
378 necessary for performance measurement, including, but not limited to, the number of  
379 children reunited with participants in a family treatment court division, drug testing  
380 results, drug testing failures, participant employment, the number of participants who  
381 successfully complete the program, and the number of participants who fail to complete  
382 the program.

383 (F) On or before July 1, 2017, and every three years thereafter, the Council of  
384 Accountability Court Judges of Georgia shall conduct a performance peer review of the

385 family treatment court divisions for the purpose of improving family treatment court  
386 division policies and practices and the certification and recertification process.  
387 (6) A court instituting the family treatment court division may request any of the  
388 following individuals to serve in the family treatment court division:  
389 (A) One or more prosecuting attorneys designated by the prosecuting attorney for the  
390 jurisdiction;  
391 (B) A special assistant attorney general; or  
392 (C) One or more assistant public defenders designated by the public defender, if any.  
393 (7) The clerk of the juvenile court that is instituting the family treatment court division  
394 or such clerk's designee shall serve as the clerk of the family treatment court division.  
395 (8) The court instituting the family treatment court division may request community  
396 supervision officers, probation officers, and other employees of the court to perform  
397 duties for the family treatment court division. Such individuals shall perform duties as  
398 directed by the judges of the family treatment court division.  
399 (9) The court instituting the family treatment court division may enter into agreements  
400 with other courts and agencies for the assignment of personnel and probation supervision  
401 from other courts and agencies to the family treatment court division.  
402 (10) Expenses for salaries, equipment, services, and supplies incurred in implementing  
403 this Code section may be paid from state funds, funds of the county or political  
404 subdivision implementing such family treatment court division, federal grant funds, and  
405 funds from private donations.  
406 (b) Each family treatment court division shall establish criteria which define the successful  
407 completion of the family treatment court division program. If the family treatment court  
408 division participant who was referred to the family treatment court division on a criminal  
409 charge by a superior court successfully completes the family treatment court division  
410 program, a report of such completion shall be communicated to the referring superior court  
411 judge.  
412 (c) Any statement made by a family treatment court division participant as part of  
413 participation in such court division, or any report made by the staff of such court division  
414 or program connected to such court division, regarding a participant's substance usage shall  
415 not be admissible as evidence against the participant in any legal proceeding or  
416 prosecution; provided, however, that, if the participant violates the conditions of his or her  
417 participation in the program or is terminated from the family treatment court division, the  
418 reasons for the violation or termination may be considered in sanctioning, sentencing, or  
419 otherwise disposing of the participant's case.  
420 (d) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, family treatment court division  
421 staff shall be provided, upon request, with access to all records relevant to the treatment of

422 the family treatment court division participant from any state or local government agency.  
 423 All such records and the contents thereof shall be treated as confidential, shall not be  
 424 disclosed to any person outside of the family treatment court division, and shall not be  
 425 subject to Article 4 of Chapter 18 of Title 50, relating to open records, or subject to  
 426 subpoena, discovery, or introduction into evidence in any civil or criminal proceeding.  
 427 Such records and the contents thereof shall be maintained by the family treatment court  
 428 division and originating court in a confidential file not available to the public.  
 429 (e) Any fees received by a family treatment court division from a family treatment court  
 430 division participant as payment for substance abuse treatment and services shall not be  
 431 considered as court costs or a fine.  
 432 (f) The court may have the authority to accept grants, donations, and other proceeds from  
 433 outside sources for the purpose of supporting the family treatment court division. Any such  
 434 grants, donations, or proceeds shall be retained by the family treatment court division for  
 435 expenses."

#### 436 SECTION 1-7.

437 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 15-11-505, relating to the use of  
 438 detention assessments to determine if detention is warranted, as follows:

439 "15-11-505.

440 (a) If an alleged delinquent child is brought before the court, or delivered to a secure  
 441 residential facility or nonsecure residential facility or foster care facility designated by the  
 442 court, or otherwise taken into custody, the juvenile court intake officer shall immediately  
 443 administer a detention assessment and determine if such child should be detained and  
 444 release such child, taking into account subsection (b) of this Code section. Such child shall  
 445 be released unless it appears that his or her detention is warranted.

446 (b)(1) As used in this subsection, the term 'serious delinquent act' means to commit,  
 447 attempt to commit, conspiracy to commit, or solicitation of another to commit a  
 448 delinquent act which if committed by an adult would constitute:

449 (A) Aggravated assault;

450 (B) Aggravated battery;

451 (C) Aggravated child molestation;

452 (D) Aggravated cruelty to animals;

453 (E) Aggravated sexual battery;

454 (F) Aggravated sodomy;

455 (G) Armed robbery involving a firearm;

456 (H) Arson in the first degree;

457 (I) Burglary in the first degree;

- 458 (J) Child molestation;  
 459 (K) Escape;  
 460 (L) Hijacking a motor vehicle;  
 461 (M) Home invasion in the first or second degree;  
 462 (N) Involuntary manslaughter;  
 463 (O) Murder;  
 464 (P) Participating in criminal gang activity, as defined in subparagraphs (A) through (G)  
 465 and (J) of paragraph (1) of Code Section 16-15-3, in violation of Code Section 16-15-4;  
 466 (Q) Rape;  
 467 (R) Robbery;  
 468 (S) Sexual exploitation of children;  
 469 (T) Smash and grab burglary;  
 470 (U) Trafficking of substances in violation of Code Section 16-13-31 or 16-13-31.1;  
 471 (V) Vehicular homicide; or  
 472 (W) Voluntary manslaughter.  
 473 (2) When a child who is 13 years of age or younger is taken into custody as provided in  
 474 subsection (a) of this Code section for any delinquent act other than a serious delinquent  
 475 act, there shall be a presumption that such child should not be detained."

476 **SECTION 1-8.**

477 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 15-11-710, relating  
 478 to exchange of information, as follows:

479 "(b) Governmental entities and state, county, municipal, or consolidated government  
 480 departments, boards, or agencies shall exchange with each other all information not held  
 481 as confidential pursuant to federal law and relating to a child which may aid a  
 482 governmental entity in the assessment, treatment, intervention, or rehabilitation of a child,  
 483 notwithstanding Code Section 15-1-15, 15-1-19, 15-11-40, 15-11-70, 15-11-105,  
 484 15-11-170, 15-11-264, 15-11-541, 15-11-542, 15-11-603, 15-11-708, 15-11-709,  
 485 15-11-744, 20-2-751.2, 20-14-40, 24-12-10, 24-12-11, 24-12-20, 26-4-5, 26-4-80, 26-5-17,  
 486 31-5-5, 31-33-6, 37-1-53, 37-2-9.1, 42-5-36, 42-8-40, 42-8-109.2, 49-5-40, 49-5-41,  
 487 49-5-41.1, 49-5-44, 49-5-45, 49-5-183, 49-5-184, 49-5-185, or 49-5-186, in order to serve  
 488 the best interests of such child. Information which is shared pursuant to this subsection  
 489 shall not be utilized to assist in the prosecution of a child in juvenile, superior, or state court  
 490 or utilized to the detriment of such child."

491 **SECTION 1-9.**

492 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 15-18-80, relating  
 493 to policy and procedure for Pretrial Intervention and Diversion Programs, as follows:

494 "(a) The prosecuting attorneys for each judicial circuit of this state shall be authorized to  
 495 create and administer a Pretrial Intervention and Diversion Program. The prosecuting  
 496 attorney for state courts, probate courts, magistrate courts, municipal courts, and any other  
 497 court that hears cases involving a violation of the criminal laws of this state or ordinance  
 498 violations shall also be authorized to create and administer a Pretrial Intervention and  
 499 Diversion Program for offenses within the jurisdiction of such courts. Upon the request  
 500 of the district attorney or solicitor and with the advice and express written consent of such  
 501 attorney, the state or local governing authority may enter into a written contract with any  
 502 entity or individual for the purpose of monitoring program participants' compliance with  
 503 a Pretrial Intervention and Diversion Program."

504 **SECTION 1-10.**

505 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 15-21-100, relating  
 506 to imposition of additional penalty for certain offenses, as follows:

507 "(a)(1) In every case in which any court shall impose a fine, which shall be construed to  
 508 include costs, for any offense prohibited by Code Section 16-13-30, 16-13-30.1,  
 509 16-13-30.2, 16-13-30.3, 16-13-30.5, 16-13-31, 16-13-31.1, 16-13-32, 16-13-32.1,  
 510 16-13-32.2, 16-13-32.3, 16-13-32.4, 16-13-32.5, or 16-13-32.6, there shall be imposed  
 511 as an additional penalty a sum equal to 50 percent of the original fine. The additional 50  
 512 percent penalty shall also be imposed in every case in which a fine is imposed for  
 513 violation of:

514 ~~(A)~~ Code Section 3-3-23.1;

515 ~~(B)~~ Code Section 40-6-391; ~~or~~

516 ~~(C)~~ Code Section 40-6-393 or 40-6-394 if the offender was also charged with a  
 517 violation of Code Section 40-6-391; ~~or~~

518 (D) Code Section 52-7-12.

519 (2) If no fine is provided for in the applicable Code section, and the judge places the  
 520 defendant on probation, the fine authorized by Code Section 17-10-8 shall be applicable."

521 **SECTION 1-11.**

522 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 15-21-101, relating  
 523 to collection of fines and authorized expenditures of funds from County Drug Abuse  
 524 Treatment and Education Fund, as follows:

525 "(b) Moneys collected pursuant to this article and placed in the 'County Drug Abuse  
526 Treatment and Education Fund' shall be expended by the governing authority of the county  
527 for which the fund is established solely and exclusively:

528 (1) For drug abuse treatment and education programs relating to controlled substances,  
529 alcohol, and marijuana; ~~and~~

530 (2) If a drug court division has been established in the county under Code Section  
531 15-1-15, for purposes of the drug court division;

532 (3) If an operating under the influence court division has been established in the county  
533 under Code Section 15-1-19, for the purposes of the operating under the influence court  
534 division; and

535 (4) If a family treatment court division has been established in the county under Code  
536 Section 15-11-70, for the purposes of the family treatment court division.

537 (c) This article shall not preclude the appropriation or expenditure of other funds by the  
538 governing authority of any county or by the General Assembly for the purpose of drug  
539 abuse treatment or education programs, or drug court divisions, operating under the  
540 influence court divisions, or family treatment court divisions."

## 541 PART II

### 542 CHARTER SCHOOLS IN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND

### 543 DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE FACILITIES

#### 544 SECTION 2-1.

545 Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, is amended by  
546 revising paragraphs (1) and (8) of subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-133, relating to free  
547 public instruction for elementary and secondary education, as follows:

548 "(b)(1) Any child, except a child in a secure residential facility as defined in Code  
549 Section 15-11-2, as specifically provided in this paragraph, who is in the physical or legal  
550 custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice or the Department of Human Services; in  
551 a placement operated by the Department of Human Services or the Department of  
552 Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities; or in a facility or placement paid for  
553 by the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Human Services or any of its  
554 divisions, or the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and  
555 who is physically present within the geographical area served by a local unit of  
556 administration for any length of time is eligible for enrollment in the educational  
557 programs of that local unit of administration; provided, however, that the child meets the  
558 age eligibility requirements established by this article. ~~The~~ Except for children who are  
559 committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice and receiving education services under



560 Code Section 20-2-2084.1, the local unit of administration of the school district in which  
 561 such child is present shall be responsible for the provision of all educational programs,  
 562 including special education and related services, at no charge so long as the child is  
 563 physically present in the school district. A child shall be considered in the physical or  
 564 legal custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice or the Department of Human Services  
 565 or any of its divisions if custody has been awarded either temporarily or permanently by  
 566 court order or by voluntary agreement, or if the child has been admitted or placed  
 567 according to an individualized treatment or service plan of the Department of Human  
 568 Services. A child shall be considered in a facility or placement paid for or operated by  
 569 the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities if the child has been  
 570 admitted or placed according to an individualized treatment or service plan of the  
 571 Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. No child in a secure  
 572 residential facility as defined in Code Section 15-11-2, regardless of his or her custody  
 573 status, shall be eligible for enrollment in the educational programs of the local unit of  
 574 administration of the school district in which such facility is located. No child or youth  
 575 in the custody of the Department of Corrections or the Department of Juvenile Justice and  
 576 confined in a facility as a result of a sentence imposed by a court shall be eligible for  
 577 enrollment in the educational programs of the local unit of administration of the school  
 578 district where such child or youth is being held; provided, however, that such child or  
 579 youth may be eligible for enrollment in a state charter school pursuant to Code Section  
 580 20-2-2084.1."

581 "(8) The Department of Education, the State Charter Schools Commission, the  
 582 Department of Human Services, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of  
 583 Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, and the local units of administration  
 584 where Department of Education, State Charter Schools Commission, Department of  
 585 Juvenile Justice, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, or  
 586 Department of Human Services placements, facilities, or contract facilities are located  
 587 shall jointly develop procedures binding on all agencies implementing the provisions of  
 588 this Code section applicable to children and youth in the physical or legal custody of the  
 589 Department of Juvenile Justice, under the care or physical or legal custody of the  
 590 Department of Human Services, or under the physical custody of the Department of  
 591 Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities."

592 **SECTION 2-2.**

593 Said title is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

594 "20-2-2084.1.  
 595 A state charter school shall be authorized, upon the approval of the commission, to enter  
 596 into a contract with the Department of Juvenile Justice or the Department of Corrections  
 597 to operate a school and deliver education services to school age children or youth  
 598 incarcerated within any facility of the Department of Corrections or incarcerated within or  
 599 committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice. Any children or youth receiving  
 600 education services through a state charter school in such manner shall be considered  
 601 students enrolled in and attending the state charter school for purposes of funding pursuant  
 602 to Code Section 20-2-2089."

603 **SECTION 2-3.**

604 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 20-2-2090, relating to collaborative  
 605 efforts on matters related to authorization of state charter schools and administration, as  
 606 follows:

607 "20-2-2090.

608 The commission shall work in collaboration with the department on all matters related to  
 609 authorizing state charter schools and shall be assigned to the department for administrative  
 610 purposes only, as prescribed in Code Section 50-4-3. For administrative purposes,  
 611 including data reporting, student enrollment counting procedures, student achievement  
 612 reporting, funding allocations, and related purposes as defined by the State Board of  
 613 Education, each state charter school, including any students receiving education services  
 614 through a state charter school pursuant to Code Section 20-2-2084.1, shall, consistent with  
 615 department rules and regulations, be treated as a single local education agency."

616 **SECTION 2-4.**

617 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (d) of Code Section 20-2-2114, relating  
 618 to qualifications for the scholarship program for special needs students, as follows:

619 "(d) Students enrolled in a school operated by the Department of Juvenile Justice or  
 620 operated by a state charter school on behalf of the Department of Juvenile Justice pursuant  
 621 to Code Section 20-2-2084.1 are not eligible for the scholarship."

622 **SECTION 2-5.**

623 Title 42 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to penal institutions, is amended  
 624 by revising Code Section 42-2-5.1, relating to the Department of Corrections as a special  
 625 school district for school age youth, as follows:

626 "42-2-5.1.

627 (a) In order to provide education for any school age youths youth incarcerated within any  
 628 facility of the department, the department shall be considered a special school district  
 629 which shall be given the same funding consideration for federal funds that school districts  
 630 within ~~the~~ this state are given. The special school district under the department shall have  
 631 the powers, privileges, and authority exercised or capable of exercise by any other school  
 632 district. The schools within the special school district shall be under the control of the  
 633 commissioner, who shall serve as the superintendent of schools for such district, except as  
 634 otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this Code section. The board shall serve as the  
 635 board of education for such district. The board, acting alone or in cooperation with the  
 636 State Board of Education, shall establish education standards for the district. As far as is  
 637 practicable, such standards shall adhere to the standards adopted by the State Board of  
 638 Education for the education of school age youth, while taking into account:

639 (1) The overriding security needs of correctional institutions and other restrictions  
 640 inherent to the nature of correctional facilities;

641 (2) The effect of limited funding on the capability of the department to meet certain  
 642 school standards; and

643 (3) Existing juvenile education standards of the Correctional Education Association and  
 644 the American Correctional Association, which shall be given primary consideration  
 645 where any conflicts arise.

646 (b) Any school within the department that is operated by a state charter school pursuant  
 647 to a contract entered into in accordance with Code Section 20-2-2084.1 shall be under the  
 648 control of the State Charter Schools Commission and the governing board of the state  
 649 charter school, subject to any conditions in the contract. Any such school shall not be  
 650 considered a part of the special school district established pursuant to this Code section.

651 ~~(b)~~(c) The effect of subsection (a) of this Code section shall not be to provide state funds  
 652 to the special school district under the department through Part 4 of Article 6 of Chapter  
 653 2 of Title 20, except as otherwise provided in Code Section 20-2-2084.1."

654 **SECTION 2-6.**

655 Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to social services, is amended  
 656 by revising Code Section 49-4A-12, relating to the Department of Juvenile Justice as a  
 657 special school district, as follows:

658 "49-4A-12.

659 (a) The Department of Juvenile Justice shall be a special school district which shall be  
 660 given the same funding consideration for federal funds that school districts within ~~the~~ this  
 661 state are given.

662 (b)(1) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the ~~The~~ schools  
 663 within the department shall be under the control of the commissioner who shall serve as  
 664 the superintendent of schools for such district. The Board of Juvenile Justice shall serve  
 665 as the board of education for such district.

666 (2) Any school within the department that is operated by a state charter school pursuant  
 667 to a contract entered into in accordance with Code Section 20-2-2084.1 shall be under the  
 668 control of the State Charter Schools Commission and the governing board of the state  
 669 charter school, subject to any conditions in the contract. Any such school shall not be  
 670 considered a part of the special school district established pursuant to this Code section.

671 (c)(1) The schools shall meet the requirements of the law for public schools and rules  
 672 and regulations of the State Board of Education. It is the intent of this Code section to  
 673 fund educational services and programs in this special school district so that youth served  
 674 therein shall receive the same quality and content of educational services as provided to  
 675 youth in school districts within ~~the~~ this state.

676 (2) The State School Superintendent may grant waivers for such provisions of the laws  
 677 and regulations with which the schools cannot comply because of their functioning on an  
 678 annual basis and in response to the commissioner or the commissioner's designee's  
 679 written request and justification. Such exceptions shall be in writing.

680 (d)(1) Each teacher in the special school district shall receive annual compensation at the  
 681 rate specified for the type of certificate held by such teacher based on the appropriate  
 682 teacher salary schedules established pursuant to Code Section 20-2-212.

683 (2) This provision shall not act to reduce the compensation currently paid any teacher in  
 684 the special school district.

685 (3) To the extent such resources are available, federal funding resources shall be utilized  
 686 to meet increased costs resulting from implementation of this subsection.

687 (e) The commissioner shall develop and implement a plan whereby there shall be  
 688 sufficient substitute teachers available for temporary service as needed for each school  
 689 composing the special school district.

690 (f)(1) Nothing in the language of this Code section shall be construed as prohibiting any  
 691 local school district from issuing a diploma to a youth in the custody of the department,  
 692 upon certification of the principal of a departmental school.

693 (2) School records of any juvenile in the department's programs who is issued a diploma  
 694 by a local school district shall be maintained by such local school district, provided that  
 695 all references to the juvenile's commitment to and treatment by the department are  
 696 expunged.

697 (g) The special school district under the department shall have the powers, privileges, and  
 698 authority exercised or capable of exercise by any other school district.

699 (h) The effect of this Code section shall not be to provide state funds to the special school  
 700 district under the department through Part 4 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20, except  
 701 as otherwise provided in Code Section 20-2-2084.1."

702 PART III  
 703 SCHOOL DISCIPLINE  
 704 SECTION 3-1.

705 Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, is amended by  
 706 revising Code Section 20-2-759, which was previously reserved, as follows:

707 "20-2-759.

708 The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules and regulations to require minimum  
 709 qualifications for hearing officers, disciplinary hearing officers, tribunals, and panels that  
 710 are tasked with hearing matters in this subpart. The State Board of Education shall  
 711 promulgate rules and regulations to ensure that such individuals have initial training prior  
 712 to serving as a hearing officer or disciplinary hearing officer or on a tribunal or panel,  
 713 undergo continuing education so as to continue to serve in such capacity, and function as  
 714 independent, neutral arbiters. Reserved."

715 SECTION 3-2.

716 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 20-2-1181, relating to disruption or  
 717 interference with operation of public schools, as follows:

718 "20-2-1181.

719 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly disrupt or  
 720 interfere with the operation of any public school, public school bus, or public school bus  
 721 stop as designated by local ~~school~~ boards of education. ~~Any~~ Except as provided in  
 722 subsection (b) of this Code section, a person convicted of violating this Code section shall  
 723 be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature.

724 (b)(1) As used in this subsection, the term 'complaint' shall have the same meaning as set  
 725 forth in Code Section 15-11-2.

726 (2) A local board of education shall develop a system of progressive discipline that may  
 727 be imposed on a child accused of violating this Code section before initiating a  
 728 complaint.

729 (3) When a complaint is filed involving a violation of this Code section by a child not  
 730 included in paragraph (4) of this subsection, it shall include information showing that the  
 731 local board of education sought to:

732 (A) Resolve the expressed problem through available educational approaches; and

733 (B) Engage the child's parent, guardian, or legal custodian to resolve the expressed  
 734 problem and that such individual has been unable or unwilling to resolve the expressed  
 735 problem, that the expressed problem remains, and that court intervention is necessary.  
 736 (4) When a complaint is filed involving a violation of this Code section by a child who  
 737 is eligible for or suspected to be eligible for services under the federal Individuals with  
 738 Disabilities Education Act or Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, it  
 739 shall include information showing that the local board of education:  
 740 (A) Has determined that such child is eligible or suspected to be eligible for services  
 741 under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or Section 504 of the  
 742 federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973;  
 743 (B) Has reviewed for appropriateness such child's current Individualized Education  
 744 Program (IEP) and placement and has made modifications where appropriate;  
 745 (C) Sought to resolve the expressed problem through available educational approaches;  
 746 and  
 747 (D) Sought to engage the child's parent, guardian, or legal custodian to resolve the  
 748 expressed problem and that such individual has been unable or unwilling to resolve the  
 749 expressed problem, that the expressed problem remains, and that court intervention is  
 750 necessary."

751 **SECTION 3-3.**

752 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 20-2-1183, which was previously  
 753 reserved, as follows:

754 "20-2-1183.

755 When a local school system assigns or employs law enforcement officers in schools, the  
 756 local board of education shall have a collaborative written agreement with law enforcement  
 757 officials to establish the role of law enforcement and school employees in school  
 758 disciplinary matters and ensure coordination and cooperation among officials, agencies,  
 759 and programs involved in school discipline and public protection. ~~Reserved.~~"

760 **PART IV**

761 **DRIVING PRIVILEGES**

762 **SECTION 4-1.**

763 Chapter 5 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to drivers' licenses,  
 764 is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

765 "40-5-9.

766 (a) A pauper's affidavit may be filed in lieu of paying the driver's license reinstatement or  
 767 restoration fee otherwise required by this chapter. An individual filing a pauper's affidavit  
 768 shall under oath affirm his or her poverty and his or her resulting inability to pay the  
 769 driver's license reinstatement or restoration fee otherwise required by this chapter. The  
 770 form of the affidavit shall be prescribed by the commissioner and shall indicate on its face  
 771 that such individual has neither the income nor the assets to pay the fee otherwise required.  
 772 The following warning shall be printed on the affidavit form prepared by the  
 773 commissioner, to wit: 'WARNING: Any person knowingly making any false statement on  
 774 this affidavit commits the offense of false swearing and shall be guilty of a felony.'

775 (b) Upon the submission of a pauper's affidavit, the driver's license reinstatement or  
 776 restoration fee shall be 50 percent of the fee required by law."

777 **SECTION 4-2.**

778 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 40-5-22.1, relating to reinstatement  
 779 of license of child under 16 years convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol or  
 780 drugs, as follows:

781 "40-5-22.1.

782 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if a child under 16 years of age is adjudicated  
 783 delinquent of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs ~~or of possession of marijuana~~  
 784 ~~or a controlled substance in violation of Code Section 16-13-30 or of the unlawful~~  
 785 ~~possession of a dangerous drug in violation of Code Section 16-13-72~~ or convicted in any  
 786 other court of such offenses, the court shall order that the privilege of such child to apply  
 787 for and be issued a driver's license or learner's permit shall be suspended and delayed until  
 788 such child is 17 years of age for a first conviction and until such child is 18 years of age for  
 789 a second or subsequent such conviction. Upon reaching the required age, such license  
 790 privilege shall be reinstated if the child submits proof of completion of a DUI Alcohol or  
 791 Drug Use Risk Reduction Program or an assessment and intervention program approved  
 792 by the juvenile court and pays a reinstatement fee to the Department of Driver Services.  
 793 The reinstatement fee for a first such conviction shall be \$210.00 or \$200.00 if paid by  
 794 mail. The reinstatement fee for a second such conviction shall be \$310.00 or \$300.00 if  
 795 paid by mail. The reinstatement fee for a third or subsequent such conviction shall be  
 796 \$410.00 or \$400.00 if paid by mail. The court shall notify the department of its order  
 797 delaying the issuance of such child's license within 15 days of the date of such order. The  
 798 department shall not issue a driver's license or learner's permit to any person contrary to a  
 799 court order issued pursuant to this Code section."

800 **SECTION 4-3.**

801 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (e) of Code Section 40-5-61, relating  
 802 to surrender and return of license, and by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

803 "(e)(1) For the purpose of making any determination under this Code section relating to  
 804 the return of revoked or suspended licenses to drivers, the period of revocation or  
 805 suspension shall begin on the date the license is surrendered to the department or a court  
 806 of competent jurisdiction under any provision of this chapter or on the date that the  
 807 department processes the citation or conviction, whichever date shall first occur.

808 (2) If the license is lost, or for any other reason surrender to the department is  
 809 impossible, the period of revocation or suspension may begin on the date set forth in a  
 810 sworn affidavit setting forth the date and reasons for such impossibility, if the department  
 811 shall have sufficient evidence to believe that the date set forth in such affidavit is true; in  
 812 the absence of such evidence, the date of receipt of such affidavit by the department shall  
 813 be controlling.

814 (3) Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection, a period of revocation or  
 815 suspension may begin on the date a person is sentenced for an offense that also results in  
 816 the revocation or suspension of his or her driver's license or driving privileges.

817 (f) When a person serving a sentence has his or her driver's license or driving privileges  
 818 concurrently revoked or suspended with the imposition of his or her sentence, the  
 819 department shall credit the time served under such sentence toward the fulfillment of the  
 820 period of revocation or suspension."

821 **SECTION 4-4.**

822 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 40-5-62, relating to periods of  
 823 revocation and conditions to restoration of license or issuance of new license, as follows:

824 "40-5-62.

825 (a) Unless the revocation was for a cause which has been removed, any person whose  
 826 license or privilege to drive a motor vehicle on the public highways has been revoked shall  
 827 not be eligible to apply for a new license nor restoration of his or her nonresident's  
 828 operating privilege until the earlier of:

829 (1) Five years from the date on which the revoked license was surrendered to and  
 830 received by the department pursuant to a person's having been declared a habitual violator  
 831 under Code Section 40-5-58 or;

832 (2) Five years from the date on which a person is sentenced for the offense that resulted  
 833 in his or her driver's license or driving privileges being revoked;

834 (3) Five years from the date on which the department processed the citation or  
 835 conviction, reduced by a period of time equal to that period of time which elapses



836 between the date the person surrenders his or her driver's license to the court after  
 837 conviction for the offense for which the person is declared a habitual violator and the date  
 838 the department receives such license from the court; or

839 ~~(2)~~(4) Such time as any cause for revocation under subsection (b) of Code Section  
 840 40-5-59 has been removed.

841 (b) When a person serving a sentence has his or her driver's license or driving privileges  
 842 concurrently revoked with the imposition of his or her sentence, the department shall credit  
 843 the time served under such sentence toward the fulfillment of the period of revocation.

844 ~~(b)~~(c) The department shall not issue a new license nor restore a person's suspended  
 845 license or nonresident's operating privilege unless and until it is satisfied after investigation  
 846 of the character, habits, and driving ability of such person that it will be safe to grant the  
 847 privilege of driving a motor vehicle on the public highways. Notwithstanding  
 848 subsection (a) of this Code section or any other provision of this title, the department shall  
 849 not issue a new license to any person whose license was revoked as a habitual violator for  
 850 three violations of Code Section 40-6-391 within a five-year period unless and until such  
 851 person submits proof of completion of a DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction  
 852 Program. The department may issue rules and regulations providing for reinstatement  
 853 hearings. In the case of a revocation pursuant to Code Section 40-5-58, the department  
 854 shall charge a fee of \$410.00 or \$400.00 if processed by mail in addition to the fee  
 855 prescribed by Code Section 40-5-25 to issue a new driver's license to a person whose  
 856 driver's license has been revoked."

857 **SECTION 4-5.**

858 Said chapter is further amended by revising paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of Code Section  
 859 40-5-63, relating to periods of suspension, as follows:

860 "(3) Upon the third conviction of any such offense within five years, as measured from  
 861 the dates of previous arrests for which convictions were obtained to the date of the  
 862 current arrest for which a conviction is obtained, such person shall be considered a  
 863 habitual violator, and ~~said~~ such license shall be revoked as provided for in ~~paragraph (1)~~  
 864 paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (a) of Code Section 40-5-62. For purposes of  
 865 this paragraph, a plea of nolo contendere and all previous accepted pleas of nolo  
 866 contendere to an offense listed in Code Section 40-5-54 within such five-year period shall  
 867 constitute a conviction. For the purposes of this paragraph, a plea of nolo contendere and  
 868 all prior accepted pleas of nolo contendere to a charge of violating Code Section 40-6-391  
 869 within five years, as measured from the dates of previous arrests for which convictions  
 870 were obtained or pleas of nolo contendere were accepted to the date of the current arrest

871 for which a plea of nolo contendere is accepted, shall be considered and counted as  
872 convictions."

873 **SECTION 4-6.**

874 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsections (c), (c.1), and (e) of Code Section  
875 40-5-64, relating to limited driving permits for certain offenders, as follows:

876 "(c) **Standards for approval.** The department shall issue a limited driving permit if the  
877 application indicates that refusal to issue such permit would cause extreme hardship to the  
878 applicant. Except as otherwise provided by subsection (c.1) of this Code section, for the  
879 purposes of this Code section, the term 'extreme hardship' means that the applicant cannot  
880 reasonably obtain other transportation, and therefore the applicant would be prohibited  
881 from:

882 (1) Going to his or her place of employment or performing the normal duties of his or  
883 her occupation;

884 (2) Receiving scheduled medical care or obtaining prescription drugs;

885 (3) Attending a college or school at which he or she is regularly enrolled as a student;

886 (4) Attending regularly scheduled sessions or meetings of support organizations for  
887 persons who have addiction or abuse problems related to alcohol or other drugs, which  
888 organizations are recognized by the commissioner;

889 (5) Attending under court order any driver education or improvement school or alcohol  
890 or drug program or course approved by the court which entered the judgment of  
891 conviction resulting in suspension of his or her driver's license or by the commissioner;

892 (6) Attending court, reporting to a community supervision, juvenile probation, or  
893 Article 6 of Chapter 8 of Title 42 probation office, ~~or~~ reporting to a community  
894 supervision officer, county or Department of Juvenile Justice juvenile probation officer,  
895 or probation officer serving pursuant to Article 6 of Chapter 8 of Title 42, or performing  
896 community service; ~~or~~

897 (7) Transporting an immediate family member who does not hold a valid driver's license  
898 for work, to obtain medical care; or prescriptions, or to school; or

899 (8) Attending any program, event, treatment, or activity ordered by a judge presiding in  
900 an accountability court, as such term is defined in Code Section 15-1-18.

901 (c.1) **Exception to standards for approval.**

902 (1) The provisions of paragraphs (2), (3), (4), and (5) of subsection (c) of this Code  
903 section shall not apply and shall not be considered for purposes of granting a limited  
904 driving permit or imposing conditions thereon under this Code section in the case of a  
905 driver's license suspension under paragraph (2) of subsection (a.1) of Code Section  
906 40-5-22.

907 (2) An ignition interlock device limited driving permit shall be restricted to allow the  
 908 holder thereof to drive solely for the following purposes:

909 (A) Going to his or her place of employment or performing the normal duties of his or  
 910 her occupation;

911 (B) Receiving scheduled medical care or obtaining prescription drugs;

912 ~~(B)~~(C) Attending a college or school at which he or she is regularly enrolled as a  
 913 student;

914 ~~(C)~~(D) Attending regularly scheduled sessions or meetings of treatment support  
 915 organizations for persons who have addiction or abuse problems related to alcohol or  
 916 other drugs, which organizations are recognized by the commissioner; ~~and~~

917 (E) Attending under court order any driver education or improvement school or alcohol  
 918 or drug program or course approved by the court which entered the judgment of  
 919 conviction resulting in suspension of his or her driver's license or by the commissioner;

920 (F) Attending court, reporting to a community supervision, juvenile probation, or  
 921 Article 6 of Chapter 8 of Title 42 probation office, reporting to a community  
 922 supervision officer, county or Department of Juvenile Justice juvenile probation officer,  
 923 or probation officer serving pursuant to Article 6 of Chapter 8 of Title 42, or  
 924 performing community service;

925 (G) Transporting an immediate family member who does not hold a valid driver's  
 926 license for work, to obtain medical care or prescriptions, or to school;

927 (H) Attending any program, event, treatment, or activity ordered by a judge presiding  
 928 in an accountability court, as such term is defined in Code Section 15-1-18; or

929 ~~(D)~~(I) Going for monthly monitoring visits with the permit holder's ignition interlock  
 930 device service provider."

931 "(e) **Fees, duration, renewal, and replacement of permit.**

932 (1) A limited driving permit issued pursuant to this Code section shall be \$25.00 and  
 933 shall become invalid upon the driver's eighteenth birthday in the case of a suspension  
 934 under paragraph (2) of subsection (a.1) of Code Section 40-5-22, upon the expiration of  
 935 one year following issuance thereof in the case of a suspension for an offense listed in  
 936 Code Section 40-5-54 or a suspension under Code Section 40-5-57 or a suspension in  
 937 accordance with paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of Code Section 40-5-63 for a violation  
 938 of Code Section 40-6-391, or upon the expiration of 30 days in the case of an  
 939 administrative license suspension in accordance with paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of  
 940 Code Section 40-5-67.2; except that such limited driving permit shall expire upon any  
 941 earlier reinstatement of the driver's license. A person may apply to the department for  
 942 a limited driving permit immediately following such conviction if he or she has  
 943 surrendered his or her driver's license to the court in which the conviction was adjudged

944 or to the department if the department has processed the citation or conviction. Upon the  
 945 applicant's execution of an affidavit attesting to such facts and to the fact that the court  
 946 had not imposed a suspension or revocation of his or her driver's license or driving  
 947 privileges inconsistent with the driving privileges to be conferred by the limited driving  
 948 permit applied for, the department may issue such person a limited driving permit.  
 949 ~~Permits~~ Limited driving permits issued pursuant to this Code section are renewable upon  
 950 payment of a renewal fee of \$5.00. ~~Permits~~ Such permits may be renewed ~~until one time~~  
 951 after the person has his or her license reinstated is eligible to reinstate his or her driver's  
 952 license for the violation that was the basis of the issuance of the permit. Upon payment  
 953 of a fee in an amount the same as that provided by Code Section 40-5-25 for issuance of  
 954 a Class C driver's license, a person may be issued a replacement for a lost or destroyed  
 955 limited driving permit issued to him or her.

956 (2) An ignition interlock device limited driving permit shall be valid for a period of one  
 957 year. Upon successful completion of one year of monitoring of such ignition interlock  
 958 device, the restriction for maintaining and using such ignition interlock device shall be  
 959 removed, and ~~the such~~ permit may be renewed for additional periods of two months ~~as~~  
 960 provided in paragraph (1) of this subsection upon payment of a renewal fee of \$5.00, but  
 961 it may only be renewed one time after such person is eligible to reinstate his or her  
 962 driver's license."

963 **SECTION 4-7.**

964 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 40-5-75, relating to suspension of  
 965 licenses by operation of law, as follows:

966 "40-5-75.

967 (a) The driver's license of any person convicted of driving or being in actual physical  
 968 control of any moving vehicle while under the influence of a controlled substance or  
 969 marijuana in violation of paragraph (2), (4), or (6) of subsection (a) of Code Section  
 970 40-6-391, or the equivalent law of any other jurisdiction, shall by operation of law be  
 971 suspended, and such suspension shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

972 (1) Upon the first conviction of any such offense, with no arrest and conviction of and  
 973 no plea of nolo contendere accepted to such offense within the previous five years, as  
 974 measured from the dates of previous arrests for which convictions were obtained to the  
 975 date of the current arrest for which a conviction is obtained, the period of suspension shall  
 976 be for not less than 180 days. At the end of 180 days, the person may apply to the  
 977 department for reinstatement of his or her driver's license. Such license shall be  
 978 reinstated only if the person submits proof of completion of a DUI Alcohol or Drug Use

979 Risk Reduction Program and pays to the department a restoration fee of \$210.00 or  
980 \$200.00 when such reinstatement is processed by mail;

981 (2) Upon the second conviction of any such offense within five years, as measured from  
982 the dates of previous arrests for which convictions were obtained to the date of the  
983 current arrest for which a conviction is obtained, the period of suspension shall be for  
984 three years, provided that after one year from the date of the conviction, the person may  
985 apply to the department for reinstatement of his or her driver's license by submitting proof  
986 of completion of a DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction Program and paying to the  
987 department a restoration fee of \$310.00 or \$300.00 when such reinstatement is processed  
988 by mail; and

989 (3) Upon the third or subsequent conviction of any such offense within five years, as  
990 measured from the dates of previous arrests for which convictions were obtained to the  
991 date of the current arrest for which a conviction is obtained, such person's license shall  
992 be suspended for a period of five years. A driver's license suspension imposed under this  
993 paragraph shall run concurrently with and shall be counted toward the fulfillment of any  
994 period of revocation imposed under Code Sections 40-5-58 and 40-5-62, provided that  
995 such revocation arose from the same act for which the suspension was imposed. At the  
996 end of two years, the person may apply to the department for a three-year driving permit  
997 upon compliance with the following conditions:

998 (A) Such person has not been convicted or pleaded nolo contendere to any drug related  
999 offense, including driving under the influence, for a period of two years immediately  
1000 preceding the application for such permit;

1001 (B) Such person submits proof of completion of a licensed drug treatment program.  
1002 Such proof shall be submitted within two years of the license suspension and prior to  
1003 the issuance of the three-year driving permit. Such licensed drug treatment program  
1004 shall be paid for by the offender. The offender shall pay a permit fee of \$25.00 to the  
1005 department;

1006 (C) Such person submits proof of financial responsibility as provided in Chapter 9 of  
1007 this title; and

1008 (D) Refusal to issue such permit would cause extreme hardship to the applicant. For  
1009 the purposes of this subparagraph, the term 'extreme hardship' means that the applicant  
1010 cannot reasonably obtain other transportation, and, therefore, the applicant would be  
1011 prohibited from:

1012 (i) Going to his or her place of employment or performing the normal duties of his  
1013 or her occupation;

1014 (ii) Receiving scheduled medical care or obtaining prescription drugs;

- 1015 (iii) Attending a college or school at which he or she is regularly enrolled as a  
 1016 student; or  
 1017 (iv) Attending regularly scheduled sessions or meetings of support organizations for  
 1018 persons who have addiction or abuse problems related to alcohol or other drugs,  
 1019 which organizations are recognized by the commissioner.

1020 Any three-year driving permittee who is convicted of violating any state law or local  
 1021 ordinance relating to the movement of vehicles or any such permittee who is convicted  
 1022 of violating the conditions endorsed on his or her three-year driving permit shall have his  
 1023 or her permit revoked by the department. Any court in which such conviction is had shall  
 1024 require the permittee to surrender the three-year driving permit to the court, and the court  
 1025 shall forward it to the department within ten days after the conviction, with a copy of the  
 1026 conviction. Any person whose ~~limited~~ three-year driving permit has been revoked shall  
 1027 not be eligible to apply for a driver's license until six months from the date such permit  
 1028 was surrendered to the department. At the end of five years from the date on which the  
 1029 license was suspended, the person may apply to the department for reinstatement of his  
 1030 or her driver's license by submitting proof of completion of a DUI Alcohol or Drug Use  
 1031 Risk Reduction Program and paying to the department a restoration fee of \$410.00 or  
 1032 \$400.00 when such reinstatement is processed by mail. The restoration fee paid to  
 1033 reinstate a driver's license that was suspended under this paragraph shall be counted  
 1034 toward the fulfillment of the restoration fee required by subsection (c) of Code Section  
 1035 40-5-62, provided that such revocation arose from the same act for which the suspension  
 1036 was imposed.

1037 (b) Except as provided in Code Section 40-5-76, whenever a person is convicted of driving  
 1038 or being in actual physical control of any moving vehicle while under the influence of a  
 1039 controlled substance or marijuana in violation of paragraph (2), (4), or (6) of subsection (a)  
 1040 of Code Section 40-6-391, or the equivalent law of any other jurisdiction, the court in  
 1041 which such conviction is had shall require the surrender to it of any driver's license then  
 1042 held by the person so convicted, and the court shall thereupon forward such license and a  
 1043 copy of its order to the department within ten days after the conviction. The periods of  
 1044 suspension provided for in this Code section shall ~~begin on the date of surrender of the~~  
 1045 ~~driver's license or on the date that the department processes the conviction or citation,~~  
 1046 ~~whichever shall first occur~~ be governed by subsection (e) of Code Section 40-5-61.

1047 (c) Application for reinstatement of a driver's license under paragraph (1), ~~or~~ (2), or (3) of  
 1048 subsection (a) of this Code section shall be made on such forms as the commissioner may  
 1049 prescribe and shall be accompanied by proof of completion of a DUI Alcohol or Drug Use  
 1050 Risk Reduction Program and a restoration fee of \$210.00 or \$200.00 when such  
 1051 reinstatement is processed by mail. Application for a three-year driving permit under

1052 paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of this Code section shall be made on such form as the  
 1053 commissioner may prescribe and shall be accompanied by proof of completion of an  
 1054 approved residential drug treatment program and a fee of \$25.00 for such permit.

1055 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code section or any other provision of this  
 1056 chapter, any person whose license is suspended pursuant to this Code section shall not be  
 1057 eligible for early reinstatement of his or her license and shall not be eligible for a limited  
 1058 driving permit, but such person's license shall be reinstated only as provided in this Code  
 1059 section or Code Section 40-5-76.

1060 (e) Except as provided in subsection (a) of this Code section, it shall be unlawful for any  
 1061 person to operate any motor vehicle in this state after such person's license has been  
 1062 suspended pursuant to this Code section if such person has not thereafter obtained a valid  
 1063 license. Any person who is convicted of operating a motor vehicle before the department  
 1064 has reinstated such person's license or issued such person a three-year driving permit shall  
 1065 be punished by a fine of not less than \$750.00 nor more than \$5,000.00 or by imprisonment  
 1066 in the penitentiary for not more than 12 months, or both.

1067 (f) Licensed drivers who are 16 years of age who are adjudicated in a juvenile court  
 1068 pursuant to this Code section may, at their option, complete a DUI Alcohol or Drug Use  
 1069 Risk Reduction Program or an assessment and intervention program approved by the  
 1070 juvenile court.

1071 (g)(1) Upon the effective date of this subsection, the department shall be authorized to  
 1072 reinstate, instanter, a driver's license that was suspended pursuant to this Code section for  
 1073 a violation of Article 2 of Chapter 13 of Title 16, or the equivalent law of any other  
 1074 jurisdiction, that occurred prior to July 1, 2015, provided that the driver's license has not  
 1075 been previously reinstated. The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to a  
 1076 suspension imposed pursuant to this Code section for a violation of paragraph (2), (4), or  
 1077 (6) of subsection (a) of Code Section 40-6-391, or the equivalent law of any jurisdiction,  
 1078 that occurred prior to July 1, 2015, unless ordered by a judge presiding in a drug court  
 1079 division, mental health court division, veterans court division, or operating under the  
 1080 influence court division in accordance with subsection (a) of Code Section 40-5-76.  
 1081 ~~Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter to the contrary, the suspension~~  
 1082 ~~imposed pursuant to this Code section shall be in addition to and run consecutively to any~~  
 1083 ~~other suspension imposed by the department at the time of the conviction that results in~~  
 1084 ~~said suspension. If the person has never been issued a driver's license in the State of~~  
 1085 ~~Georgia or holds a driver's license issued by another state, the person shall not be eligible~~  
 1086 ~~for a driver's license for the applicable period of suspension following his or her~~  
 1087 ~~submission of an application for issuance thereof.~~

1088 (2) The department shall make a notation of a suspended driver's license that is reinstated  
 1089 pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection on a person's driving record, and such  
 1090 information shall be made available in accordance with Code Section 40-5-2.

1091 (3) The driver's license or driving privileges of any person who has a driver's license  
 1092 reinstated in accordance with paragraph (1) of this subsection shall remain subject to any  
 1093 and all applicable disqualifications specified in Article 7 of this chapter.

1094 (4) The department may promulgate rules and regulations as are necessary to implement  
 1095 this subsection."

#### 1096 SECTION 4-8.

1097 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 40-5-76, relating to restoration or  
 1098 suspension of defendant's driver's license or issuance of limited driving permit, as follows:  
 1099 "40-5-76.

1100 (a) A judge presiding in a drug court division, mental health court division, or veterans  
 1101 court division, or operating under the influence court division may order the department  
 1102 to ~~restore~~ reinstate a defendant's driver's license that has been or should be suspended  
 1103 pursuant to Code Section 40-5-75, suspend such license, or issue a defendant a limited  
 1104 driving permit or ignition interlock device limited driving permit in accordance with the  
 1105 provisions set forth in subsections (c), (c.1), and (d) of Code Section 40-5-64 or with  
 1106 whatever conditions the court determines to be appropriate under the circumstances as a  
 1107 reward or sanction to the defendant's behavior in such court division. The court shall  
 1108 determine what fees, if any, shall be paid to the department for such reward or sanction,  
 1109 provided that such fee shall not be greater than the fee normally imposed for such services.

1110 (b) A judge presiding in any court, other than the court divisions specified in subsection (a)  
 1111 of this Code section, may order the department to ~~restore~~ reinstate a defendant's driver's  
 1112 license that has been or should be suspended pursuant to Code Section 40-5-75 or issue a  
 1113 defendant a limited driving permit or ignition interlock device limited driving permit in  
 1114 accordance with the provisions set forth in subsections (c), (c.1), and (d) of Code Section  
 1115 40-5-64 if the offense for which the defendant was convicted did not directly relate to the  
 1116 operation of a motor vehicle. The court shall determine what fees, if any, shall be paid to  
 1117 the department for the ~~restoration~~ reinstatement of such driver's license or issuance of such  
 1118 limited driving permit or ignition interlock device limited driving permit, provided that  
 1119 such fee shall not be greater than the fee normally imposed for such services. Such judge  
 1120 may also order the department to suspend a defendant's driver's license that could have  
 1121 been suspended pursuant to Code Section 40-5-75 as a consequence of the defendant's  
 1122 violation of the terms of his or her probation.



1123 (c)(1) The department shall make a notation on a person's driving record when his or her  
 1124 driver's license was reinstated or suspended or he or she was issued a limited driving  
 1125 permit or ignition interlock device limited driving permit under this Code section, and  
 1126 such information shall be made available in accordance with Code Section 40-5-2.

1127 (2) The driver's license of any person who has a driver's license reinstated or suspended  
 1128 in accordance with this Code section shall remain subject to any applicable  
 1129 disqualifications specified in Article 7 of this chapter.

1130 (d) The department shall credit any time during which a defendant was issued a limited  
 1131 driving permit or ignition interlock device limited driving permit under subsection (a) of  
 1132 this Code section toward the fulfillment of the period of a driver's license suspension for  
 1133 which such permit was issued."

#### 1134 SECTION 4-9.

1135 Said chapter is further amended by revising paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of Code Section  
 1136 40-5-121, relating to driving while license is suspended or revoked, as follows:

1137 "(b)(1) The department, upon receiving a record of the conviction of any person under  
 1138 this Code section upon a charge of driving a vehicle while the license of such person was  
 1139 suspended, disqualified, or revoked, including suspensions under subsection (e) of Code  
 1140 Section 40-5-75, shall ~~extend the period of~~ impose an additional suspension or  
 1141 disqualification by of six months. Upon the expiration of six months ~~from the date on~~  
 1142 ~~which the suspension or disqualification is extended and payment of the applicable~~  
 1143 ~~reinstatement fee~~, the department shall reinstate the license. The reinstatement fee for a  
 1144 first such conviction within a five-year period shall be \$210.00 or \$200.00 if paid by  
 1145 mail. The reinstatement fee for a second such conviction within a five-year period shall  
 1146 be \$310.00 or \$300.00 if paid by mail. The reinstatement fee for a third or subsequent  
 1147 such conviction within a five-year period shall be \$410.00 or \$400.00 if paid by mail."

#### 1148 PART V

#### 1149 REORGANIZATION WITHIN THE BOARD

#### 1150 AND DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

#### 1151 SECTION 5-1.

1152 Title 42 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to penal institutions, is amended  
 1153 by revising subsections (a), (b), and (j) of Code Section 42-3-2, relating to the creation of the  
 1154 Board of Community Supervision, as follows:

1155 "(a) There is created the Board of Community Supervision which shall establish the  
 1156 general policy to be followed by the Department of Community Supervision ~~and the~~

1157 ~~Governor's Office of Transition, Support, and Reentry.~~ The powers, functions, and duties  
 1158 of the Board of Corrections as they exist on June 30, 2015, with regard to the probation  
 1159 division of the Department of Corrections and supervision of probationers unless otherwise  
 1160 provided in this chapter are transferred to the Board of Community Supervision effective  
 1161 July 1, 2015. The powers, functions, and duties of the State Board of Pardons and Paroles  
 1162 as they exist on June 30, 2015, with regard to the supervision of parolees, unless otherwise  
 1163 provided in this chapter are transferred to the Board of Community Supervision effective  
 1164 July 1, 2015. The powers, functions, and duties of the Board of Juvenile Justice and the  
 1165 Department of Juvenile Justice as they exist on June 30, 2016, with regard to the probation  
 1166 supervision of children and reentry services for children who have been released from  
 1167 restrictive custody and who were adjudicated for a Class A designated felony act or Class  
 1168 B designated felony act, as such terms are defined in Code Section 15-11-2, are transferred  
 1169 to the Board of Community Supervision effective July 1, 2016, except as otherwise  
 1170 provided by the rules and regulations of the Board of Juvenile Justice governing such  
 1171 supervision. The powers, functions, and duties of the County and Municipal Probation  
 1172 Advisory Council as they exist on June 30, 2015, are transferred to the Board of  
 1173 Community Supervision effective July 1, 2015. The powers, functions, and duties of the  
 1174 Governor's Office of Transition, Support, and Reentry as they exist on June 30, 2016, with  
 1175 regard to reentry services are transferred to the board and DCS effective July 1, 2016. The  
 1176 powers, functions, and duties of the board that were transferred from the former County  
 1177 and Municipal Probation Advisory Council as it existed on June 30, 2015, to the board are  
 1178 transferred to DCS effective July 1, 2016; provided, however, that the power to set policy  
 1179 and promulgate rules and regulations for DCS shall be retained by the board.

1180 (b) The board shall consist of ~~nine~~ 11 members. The commissioner of corrections,  
 1181 commissioner of juvenile justice, chairperson and vice chairperson of the State Board of  
 1182 Pardons and Paroles, director of the Division of Family and Children Services of the  
 1183 Department of Human Services, and commissioner of behavioral health and developmental  
 1184 disabilities shall be members of the board and shall serve on the board so long as they  
 1185 remain in their appointed positions. The Governor shall appoint:

1186 (1) A sheriff who shall serve an initial term ending June 30, 2019, each subsequent term  
 1187 being four years;

1188 (2) A mayor or city manager who shall serve an initial term ending June 30, 2018, each  
 1189 subsequent term being four years; ~~and~~

1190 (3) A county commissioner or county manager who shall serve an initial term ending  
 1191 June 30, 2017, each subsequent term being four years;

1192 (4) An individual who owns or is employed by a private corporation, private enterprise,  
 1193 private agency, or other private entity that is providing probation supervision services

1194 pursuant to Article 6 of Chapter 8 of this title who shall serve an initial term ending June  
 1195 30, 2019, each subsequent term being four years; and

1196 (5) An individual who is employed by a governing authority of a county, municipality,  
 1197 or consolidated government that is providing probation supervision services pursuant to  
 1198 Article 6 of Chapter 8 of this title who shall serve an initial term ending June 30, 2018,  
 1199 each subsequent term being four years."

1200 "(j) The board shall perform duties required of it by law and shall, in addition thereto, be  
 1201 responsible for promulgation of all rules and regulations not in conflict with this chapter  
 1202 that may be necessary and appropriate to the administration of DCS ~~and the Governor's~~  
 1203 ~~Office of Transition, Support, and Reentry~~, to the accomplishment of the purposes of this  
 1204 chapter and Chapters 8 and 9 of this title, and to the performance of the duties and  
 1205 functions of DCS ~~and the Governor's Office of Transition, Support, and Reentry~~ as set forth  
 1206 in this chapter and Chapters 8 and 9 of this title."

#### 1207 **SECTION 5-2.**

1208 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 42-3-3, relating to  
 1209 the creation of the Department of Community Supervision, as follows:

1210 "(a) There is created the Department of Community Supervision. DCS shall be the agency  
 1211 primarily responsible for:

- 1212 (1) Supervision of all defendants who receive a felony sentence of straight probation;
- 1213 (2) Supervision of all defendants who receive a split sentence;
- 1214 (3) Supervision of all defendants placed on parole or other conditional release from  
 1215 imprisonment by the State Board of Pardons and Paroles;
- 1216 (4) Supervision of juvenile offenders ~~when such offender had been placed in~~ released  
 1217 from restrictive custody due to an adjudication for a Class A designated felony act or  
 1218 Class B designated felony act, as such terms are defined in Code Section 15-11-2, ~~and is~~  
 1219 ~~released from such custody~~ except as otherwise provided by the rules and regulations of  
 1220 the Board of Juvenile Justice governing such supervision;
- 1221 (5) Administration of laws, rules, and regulations relating to probation and parole  
 1222 supervision, as provided for by law;
- 1223 (6) Enforcement of laws, rules, and regulations relating to probation and parole  
 1224 supervision, as provided for by law; ~~and~~
- 1225 (7) Administration of laws as provided in this chapter and Chapters 8 and 9 of this title;
- 1226 (8) Regulating entities and individuals that provide probation supervision services  
 1227 pursuant to Article 6 of Chapter 8 of this title;
- 1228 (9) Reviewing the uniform professional standards for private probation officers and  
 1229 uniform contract standards for private probation contracts established in Code Section

1230 42-8-107 and submit a report with its recommendations to the board. DCS shall submit  
 1231 its initial report on or before January 1, 2018, and shall continue such reviews every two  
 1232 years thereafter. Such report shall provide information which will allow the board to  
 1233 review the effectiveness of the uniform professional standards and uniform contract  
 1234 standards and, if necessary, to revise such standards;  
 1235 (10) Producing an annual summary report; and  
 1236 (11) Administering laws, rules, and regulations relating to misdemeanor probation  
 1237 supervision pursuant to Article 6 of Chapter 8 of this title."

### 1238 SECTION 5-3.

1239 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 42-3-5, relating to  
 1240 the administrative functions of the Department of Community Supervision, as follows:

1241 "(a) The commissioner, with the approval of the board, may establish units within DCS as  
 1242 he or she deems proper for its administration and shall designate persons to be assistant  
 1243 commissioners of each unit and to exercise authority as he or she may delegate to them in  
 1244 writing. The commissioner shall establish an offender transition and reentry unit within  
 1245 DCS to coordinate successful offender reentry in this state, reduce recidivism, enhance  
 1246 public safety through collaboration among stakeholders, and assist in ensuring the  
 1247 appropriate and responsible use of cost savings realized by justice reforms through  
 1248 reinvestment in evidence based, community centered services. The commissioner shall  
 1249 establish a misdemeanor probation unit within DCS to coordinate and oversee services  
 1250 provided under Article 6 of Chapter 8 of this title. The commissioner shall establish a  
 1251 victim services unit within DCS to coordinate:  
 1252 (1) Payment of court ordered restitution; and  
 1253 (2) Victim services, including, but not limited to, payments available to victims as  
 1254 provided by law and assisting victims with support services."

### 1255 SECTION 5-4.

1256 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (e) of Code Section 42-3-6, relating to  
 1257 rules and regulations, as follows:

1258 "(e) The following rules and regulations shall remain in full force and effect as rules and  
 1259 regulations of DCS until amended, repealed, or superseded by rules or regulations adopted  
 1260 by the board:  
 1261 (1) All rules and regulations previously adopted by the Advisory Council for Probation  
 1262 which relate to functions transferred under this chapter from the state-wide probation  
 1263 system to DCS;

- 1264 (2) All rules and regulations previously adopted by the Department of Corrections or the  
 1265 Board of Corrections which relate to functions transferred under this chapter from the  
 1266 Department of Corrections to DCS;
- 1267 (3) All rules and regulations previously adopted by the State Board of Pardons and  
 1268 Paroles which relate to functions transferred under this chapter from the State Board of  
 1269 Pardons and Paroles to DCS;
- 1270 (4) All rules and regulations previously adopted by the Department of Juvenile Justice  
 1271 or the Board of Juvenile Justice which relate to functions transferred under this chapter  
 1272 from the Department of Juvenile Justice to DCS; ~~and~~
- 1273 (5) All rules and regulations previously adopted by the County and Municipal Probation  
 1274 Advisory Council which relate to functions transferred under this chapter from the  
 1275 County and Municipal Probation Advisory Council to DCS; and
- 1276 (6) All rules and regulations previously adopted by the Governor's Office of Transition,  
 1277 Support, and Reentry which relate to functions transferred under this chapter from the  
 1278 Governor's Office of Transition, Support, and Reentry to DCS."

1279 **SECTION 5-5.**

1280 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 42-3-7, relating to  
 1281 transfer of prior appropriations, personnel, equipment, and facilities, as follows:

1282 "(a) Appropriations to the Department of Corrections, the Department of Juvenile Justice,  
 1283 the County and Municipal Probation Advisory Council, ~~and~~ the State Board of Pardons and  
 1284 Paroles, and the Governor's Office of Transition, Support, and Reentry for functions  
 1285 transferred to DCS pursuant to this chapter shall be transferred to DCS as provided for in  
 1286 Code Section 45-12-90. Personnel, equipment, and facilities previously employed by the  
 1287 Department of Corrections, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the County and Municipal  
 1288 Probation Advisory Council, ~~and~~ the State Board of Pardons and Paroles, and the  
 1289 Governor's Office of Transition, Support, and Reentry for functions transferred to DCS  
 1290 pursuant to this chapter shall likewise be transferred to DCS. Any disagreement as to any  
 1291 of such transfers shall be resolved by the Governor. Any individual who is employed by  
 1292 the Department of Corrections as a probation officer or probation supervisor or by the State  
 1293 Board of Pardons and Paroles as a parole officer on or before July 1, 2016, and who is  
 1294 required by the terms of his or her employment to comply with the requirements of Chapter  
 1295 8 of Title 35, the 'Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Act,' may remain in the  
 1296 employment of the employing agency but shall be transferred for administrative purposes  
 1297 only to DCS on July 1, 2015."

**SECTION 5-6.**

1298

1299 Said is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

1300 "42-3-10.

1301 (a) In order to appeal a sanction imposed by the board, a person shall remit a request for  
 1302 a hearing, in writing by certified mail or statutory overnight delivery, return receipt  
 1303 requested, to the board within 30 days from the date of personal notice or receipt of the  
 1304 notice of the sanction; otherwise, the right to such hearing shall be deemed waived. The  
 1305 board shall hold a hearing as provided in Chapter 13 of Title 50, the 'Georgia  
 1306 Administrative Procedure Act.' If the sanction is sustained, the person who received the  
 1307 sanction shall have a right to file for a judicial review of the final decision, as provided for  
 1308 in Chapter 13 of Title 50, the 'Georgia Administrative Procedure Act'; while such appeal  
 1309 is pending, the order of the board shall not be stayed. A petition for judicial review shall  
 1310 name the board as defendant, shall be served by certified mail or statutory overnight  
 1311 delivery, return receipt requested, and shall be filed in the superior court of the county  
 1312 where the offices of the board are located.

1313 (b) Actions at law and in equity against the board or any of its members predicated upon  
 1314 omissions or acts done in a member's official capacity or under color thereof shall be  
 1315 brought in the superior court of the county where the offices of the board are located;  
 1316 provided, however, that nothing in this Code section shall be construed as waiving the  
 1317 immunity of the state to be sued without its consent."

**SECTION 5-7.**

1318

1319 Said title is further amended by repealing in its entirety Article 2 of Chapter 3, relating to  
 1320 successful transition and reentry of offender, and designating said article as reserved.

**PART VI**

1321

**FIRST OFFENDER TREATMENT,**

1322

**RECORD RESTRICTION, AND CROSS-REFERENCES**

1323

**PART VIA**

1324

**SECTION 6A-1.**

1325

1326 Chapter 8 of Title 42 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to probation, is  
 1327 amended by revising Article 3, relating to probation of first offenders, as follows:

## "ARTICLE 3

1328

1329 42-8-60.

1330 (a) ~~When a defendant~~ Upon a verdict or plea of guilty or a plea of nolo contendere, but  
 1331 ~~before an adjudication of guilt, in the case of a defendant who~~ has not been previously  
 1332 convicted of a felony, the court may, upon a guilty verdict or plea of guilty or nolo  
 1333 contendere and before an adjudication of guilt, without entering a judgment of guilt and  
 1334 with the consent of the defendant, defer further proceedings and:

1335 (1) ~~Place~~ Defer further proceeding and place the defendant on probation as provided by  
 1336 law; or

1337 (2) Sentence the defendant to a term of confinement ~~as provided by law.~~

1338 ~~(b) Upon violation by the defendant of the terms of probation, upon a conviction for~~  
 1339 ~~another crime during the period of probation, or upon the court determining that the~~  
 1340 ~~defendant is or was not eligible for sentencing under this article, the court may enter an~~  
 1341 ~~adjudication of guilt and proceed as otherwise provided by law. No person may avail~~  
 1342 ~~himself or herself of this article on more than one occasion.~~

1343 ~~(c)~~(b) The court shall not sentence a defendant under the provisions of this article ~~and, if~~  
 1344 ~~sentenced under the provisions of this article, shall not discharge the defendant upon~~  
 1345 ~~completion of the sentence~~ unless the court has reviewed the defendant's criminal record  
 1346 as such is on file with the Georgia Crime Information Center.

1347 (c) When a court imposes a sentence pursuant to this article, it:

1348 (1) Shall state in its sentencing order the prospective effective date of the defendant  
 1349 being exonerated of guilt and discharged as a matter of law, assuming the defendant  
 1350 successfully complies with its sentencing order, provided that such date may not have  
 1351 taken into account the awarding of credit for time served in custody; and

1352 (2) May limit access to certain information as provided in subsection (b) of Code Section  
 1353 42-8-62.1.

1354 (d) The court may enter an adjudication of guilt and proceed to sentence the defendant as  
 1355 otherwise provided by law when the:

1356 (1) Defendant violates the terms of his or her first offender probation;

1357 (2) Defendant is convicted for another crime during the period of his or her first offender  
 1358 sentence; or

1359 (3) Court determines that the defendant is or was not eligible for first offender sentencing  
 1360 under this article.

1361 (e) A defendant sentenced pursuant to this article shall be exonerated of guilt and shall  
 1362 stand discharged as a matter of law as soon as the defendant:

- 1363 (1) Completes the terms of his or her probation, which shall include the expiration of the  
1364 sentence by virtue of the time frame of the sentence passing, provided that such sentence  
1365 has not otherwise been tolled or suspended;
- 1366 (2) Is released by the court under Code Section 42-8-37, 42-8-103, or 42-8-103.1 prior  
1367 to the termination of the period of his or her probation; or
- 1368 (3) Is released from confinement and parole, provided that the defendant is not serving  
1369 a split sentence.
- 1370 (f)(1) If the defendant is serving a first offender probated sentence, under active  
1371 probation supervision or without supervision, within 30 days of such defendant  
1372 completing active probation supervision, it shall be the duty of the Department of  
1373 Community Supervision to notify, in writing, the clerk of court for the jurisdiction of the  
1374 court which imposed the first offender sentence of such completion.
- 1375 (2) If the defendant is serving a first offender probated sentence, under active probation  
1376 supervision or without supervision, within 30 days of such defendant completing the term  
1377 of probation or being released by the court prior to the termination of the period of  
1378 probation, it shall be the duty of the Department of Community Supervision or entity or  
1379 governing authority that is providing probation supervision services pursuant to Article  
1380 6 of this chapter, as applicable, to notify, in writing, the clerk of court for the jurisdiction  
1381 of the court which imposed the first offender sentence of such completion or release.
- 1382 (3) If the defendant is serving a first offender probated sentence pursuant to Article 6 of  
1383 this chapter, under active probation supervision or without supervision, within 30 days  
1384 of such defendant completing the term of probation or being released by the court prior  
1385 to the termination of the period of probation, it shall be the duty of the entity or governing  
1386 authority that is providing probation supervision services pursuant to Article 6 of this  
1387 chapter to notify, in writing, the clerk of court for the jurisdiction of the court which  
1388 imposed the first offender sentence of such completion or release.
- 1389 (4) If the defendant is not serving a first offender split sentence but is under parole  
1390 supervision, within 30 days of such defendant completing the term of parole, it shall be  
1391 the duty of the Department of Community Supervision to notify, in writing, the clerk of  
1392 court for the jurisdiction of the court which imposed the first offender sentence of such  
1393 completion.
- 1394 (5) If the defendant was sentenced only to imprisonment as a first offender and not  
1395 granted parole, within 30 days of such defendant being released from confinement, it  
1396 shall be the duty of the Department of Corrections to notify, in writing, the clerk of court  
1397 for the jurisdiction of the court which imposed the first offender sentence of such release.
- 1398 (g) If the Department of Community Supervision fails to notify the clerk of court as  
1399 provided in paragraph (2) or (4) of subsection (f) of this Code section, the entity or



1400 governing authority that is providing probation supervision services pursuant to Article 6  
 1401 of this chapter fails to notify the clerk of court as provided in paragraph (2) or (3) of  
 1402 subsection (f) of this Code section, the Department of Corrections fails to notify the clerk  
 1403 of court as provided in paragraph (5) of subsection (f) of this Code section, or the state does  
 1404 not seek to have a first offender adjudicated guilty during the term of the first offender's  
 1405 sentence and the first offender's sentence has not otherwise been tolled or suspended, then  
 1406 the defendant shall be exonerated of guilt and shall stand discharged as a matter of law.

1407 (h)(1) When the clerk of court receives for filing an order of exoneration of guilt and  
 1408 discharge or is notified by the Georgia Crime Information Center that a defendant has  
 1409 completed his or her first offender sentence or was discharged pursuant to subsection (g)  
 1410 of this Code section, it shall be the duty of the clerk of court to enter on the criminal  
 1411 docket, accusation or indictment, sentencing order, and any subsequent order modifying  
 1412 the original first offender sentencing order within 30 days of the receipt of such order or  
 1413 notification the following:

1414 'Discharge filed completely exonerates the defendant of any criminal purpose and shall  
 1415 not affect any of his or her civil rights or liberties, except for registration requirements  
 1416 under the state sexual offender registry and except with regard to employment as  
 1417 specified in Code Section 42-8-63.1; and the defendant shall not be considered to have  
 1418 a criminal conviction. O.C.G.A. 42-8-60.'

1419 (2) The entry required by paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be written or stamped in  
 1420 red ink, dated, and signed by the individual making such entry; provided, however, that,  
 1421 if the criminal docket or court records are maintained electronically or using computer  
 1422 printouts, microfilm, or similar means, such entry shall be underscored, boldface, or made  
 1423 in a similar conspicuous manner, shall be dated, and shall include the name of the  
 1424 individual making such entry on the criminal docket, accusation or indictment, sentencing  
 1425 order, and any subsequent order modifying the original first offender sentencing order.

1426 (i) Except for the registration requirements under the state sexual offender registry and  
 1427 except as otherwise provided in Code Section 42-8-63.1, the first offender exoneration of  
 1428 guilt and discharge shall completely exonerate the defendant of any criminal purpose and  
 1429 shall not affect any of his or her civil rights or liberties, and the defendant shall not be  
 1430 considered to have a criminal conviction.

1431 ~~(d)~~(j) The court shall not sentence a defendant under the provisions of this article who has  
 1432 been found guilty of or entered a plea of guilty or a plea of nolo contendere for:

- 1433 (1) A serious violent felony as such term is defined in Code Section 17-10-6.1;
- 1434 (2) A sexual offense as such term is defined in Code Section 17-10-6.2;
- 1435 (3) Trafficking of persons for labor or sexual servitude as prohibited by Code Section  
 1436 16-5-46;

- 1437 (4) Neglecting disabled adults, elder persons, or residents as prohibited by Code Section  
 1438 16-5-101;
- 1439 (5) Exploitation and intimidation of disabled adults, elder persons, and residents as  
 1440 prohibited by Code Section 16-5-102;
- 1441 ~~(3)~~(6) Sexual exploitation of a minor as ~~defined in~~ prohibited by Code Section  
 1442 16-12-100;
- 1443 ~~(4)~~(7) Electronically furnishing obscene material to a minor as ~~defined in~~ prohibited by  
 1444 Code Section 16-12-100.1;
- 1445 ~~(5)~~(8) Computer pornography and child exploitation, ~~as defined in~~ as prohibited by Code  
 1446 Section 16-12-100.2; ~~or~~
- 1447 ~~(6)~~(9)(A) Any of the following offenses when such offense is committed against a law  
 1448 enforcement officer while such officer is engaged in the performance of his or her  
 1449 official duties:
- 1450 (i) Aggravated assault in violation of Code Section 16-5-21;
- 1451 (ii) Aggravated battery in violation of Code Section 16-5-24; or
- 1452 (iii) Obstruction of a law enforcement officer in violation of subsection (b) of Code  
 1453 Section 16-10-24, if such violation results in serious physical harm or injury to such  
 1454 officer.
- 1455 (B) As used in this paragraph, the term 'law enforcement officer' means:
- 1456 (i) A 'peace officer' as such term is defined in paragraph (8) of Code Section 35-8-2;
- 1457 (ii) A law enforcement officer of the United States government;
- 1458 (iii) An individual ~~A person~~ employed as a campus police officer or school security  
 1459 officer;
- 1460 (iv) A conservation ranger; and
- 1461 (v) A jail officer employed at a county or municipal jail; or
- 1462 (10) Driving under the influence as prohibited by Code Section 40-6-391.
- 1463 (k) When a defendant has not been previously convicted of a felony, the court may, after  
 1464 an adjudication of guilt, sentence the defendant pursuant to this article as provided in Code  
 1465 Section 42-8-66 or modify a sentence as provided in subsection (f) of Code Section  
 1466 17-10-1 so as to allow a sentence pursuant to this article.
- 1467 (l) A defendant shall not avail himself or herself of this article on more than one occasion.

1468 42-8-61.

1469 When a defendant is represented by an attorney, his or her attorney shall be responsible for  
 1470 informing the defendant as to his or her eligibility for sentencing as a first offender. When  
 1471 a defendant is pro se, the court shall inquire as to the defendant's interest in entering a plea  
 1472 pursuant to the terms of this article. If the defendant expresses a desire to be sentenced as

1473 a first offender, the court shall ask the prosecuting attorney or probation official if the  
 1474 defendant is eligible for sentencing as a first offender. When imposing a sentence, the  
 1475 court shall ensure that, if a defendant is sentenced as a first offender, he or she is made  
 1476 aware of the consequences of entering a first offender plea pursuant to the terms of this  
 1477 article.

1478 42-8-62.

1479 ~~(a) Upon fulfillment of the terms of probation, upon release by the court prior to the~~  
 1480 ~~termination of the period thereof, or upon release from confinement, the defendant shall~~  
 1481 ~~be discharged without court adjudication of guilt. Except for the registration requirements~~  
 1482 ~~under the state sexual offender registry and except as otherwise provided in Code Section~~  
 1483 ~~42-8-63.1, the discharge shall completely exonerate the defendant of any criminal purpose~~  
 1484 ~~and shall not affect any of his or her civil rights or liberties; and the defendant shall not be~~  
 1485 ~~considered to have a criminal conviction. It shall be the duty of the clerk of court to enter~~  
 1486 ~~on the criminal docket and all other records of the court pertaining thereto the following:~~

1487 ~~'Discharge filed completely exonerates the defendant of any criminal purpose and shall~~  
 1488 ~~not affect any of his or her civil rights or liberties, except for registration requirements~~  
 1489 ~~under the state sexual offender registry and except with regard to employment providing~~  
 1490 ~~care for minor children or elderly persons as specified in Code Section 42-8-63.1; and the~~  
 1491 ~~defendant shall not be considered to have a criminal conviction. O.C.G.A. 42-8-62.'~~

1492 ~~Such entry shall be written or stamped in red ink, dated, and signed by the person making~~  
 1493 ~~such entry or, if the docket or record is maintained using computer print-outs, microfilm,~~  
 1494 ~~or similar means, such entry shall be underscored, boldface, or made in a similar~~  
 1495 ~~conspicuous manner and shall be dated and include the name of the person making such~~  
 1496 ~~entry. The criminal file, docket books, criminal minutes and final record, and all other~~  
 1497 ~~records of the court relating to the offense of a defendant who has been discharged without~~  
 1498 ~~court adjudication of guilt pursuant to this subsection shall not be altered as a result of that~~  
 1499 ~~discharge, except for the entry of discharge thereon required by this subsection, nor shall~~  
 1500 ~~the contents thereof be expunged or destroyed as a result of that discharge.~~

1501 ~~(b) Should a person be~~ When an individual is placed under on probation or in confinement  
 1502 under this article, within 30 days of the filing of such sentence, the clerk of court shall  
 1503 transmit a record of the same shall be forwarded first offender sentence to the Georgia  
 1504 Crime Information Center. ~~Without request of the defendant a record of discharge and~~  
 1505 ~~exoneration, as provided in this Code section, shall in every case be forwarded to the~~  
 1506 ~~Georgia Crime Information Center. In every case in which the record of probation or~~  
 1507 ~~confinement shall have been previously forwarded to the Department of Corrections, to the~~  
 1508 ~~Georgia Crime Information Center, and to the Identification Division of the Federal Bureau~~

1509 ~~of Investigation and a record of a subsequent discharge and exoneration of the defendant~~  
 1510 ~~has not been forwarded as provided in this Code section, upon request of the defendant or~~  
 1511 ~~his attorney or representative, the record of the same shall be forwarded by the clerk of~~  
 1512 ~~court so as to reflect the discharge and exoneration. The clerk shall also transmit any~~  
 1513 ~~subsequent order or notification regarding a first offender's sentence, including, but not~~  
 1514 ~~limited to, notification that the defendant completed active probation supervision, was~~  
 1515 ~~released early from probation supervision, or completed the term of probation, notification~~  
 1516 ~~that the defendant completed the term of prison or parole, an order revoking a first offender~~  
 1517 ~~sentence, an order of exoneration of guilt and discharge, and tolling orders, to the Georgia~~  
 1518 ~~Crime Information Center within 30 days of receiving such order for filing or notification.~~

1519 42-8-62.1.

1520 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

1521 (1) 'Criminal history record information' shall have the same meaning as set forth in  
 1522 Code Section 35-3-30.

1523 (2) 'Prosecuting attorney' shall have the same meaning as set forth in Code Section  
 1524 35-3-37.

1525 (3) 'Restrict,' 'restricted,' or 'restriction' shall have the same meaning as set forth in Code  
 1526 Section 35-3-37.

1527 (b)(1) At the time of sentencing, the defendant may seek to limit public access to his or  
 1528 her first offender sentencing information, and the court may, in its discretion, order any  
 1529 of the following:

1530 (A) Restrict dissemination of the defendant's first offender records;

1531 (B) The criminal file, docket books, criminal minutes, final record, all other records of  
 1532 the court, and the defendant's criminal history record information in the custody of the  
 1533 clerk of court, including within any index, be sealed and unavailable to the public; and

1534 (C) Law enforcement agencies, jails, or detention centers to restrict the defendant's  
 1535 criminal history record information of arrest, including any fingerprints or photographs  
 1536 taken in conjunction with such arrest.

1537 (2) When considering the defendant's request under this subsection, the court shall weigh  
 1538 the public's interest in the defendant's criminal history record information being publicly  
 1539 available and the harm to the defendant's privacy and issue written findings of fact  
 1540 thereupon.

1541 (3) The court shall specify the date that such prohibited dissemination, sealing, and  
 1542 restrictions will take effect.

1543 (c) An individual who has been exonerated of guilt and discharged pursuant to this article,  
 1544 including those individuals exonerated of guilt and discharged prior to July 1, 2016, may

1545 petition the court that granted such discharge for an order to seal and make unavailable to  
 1546 the public the criminal file, docket books, criminal minutes, final record, all other records  
 1547 of the court, and the defendant's criminal history record information in the custody of the  
 1548 clerk of court, including within any index. Notice of such petition shall be sent to the clerk  
 1549 of court and the prosecuting attorney. A notice sent by registered or certified mail or  
 1550 statutory overnight delivery shall be sufficient notice.

1551 (d) Within 90 days of the filing of a petition pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code  
 1552 section, the court shall order the criminal file, docket books, criminal minutes, final record,  
 1553 all other records of the court, and the defendant's criminal history record information in the  
 1554 custody of the clerk of court, including within any index, to be sealed and made unavailable  
 1555 to the public if the court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that:

1556 (1) An exoneration of guilt and discharge has been granted pursuant to this article; and  
 1557 (2) The harm otherwise resulting to the privacy of the individual outweighs the public  
 1558 interest in the criminal history record information being publicly available.

1559 (e) Within 60 days of the filing of the court's order under subsection (d) of this Code  
 1560 section, the clerk of court shall cause every document in connection with such individual's  
 1561 case, physical or electronic, in its custody, possession, or control to be sealed.

1562 (f) When a court orders sealing of court records under subsection (d) of this Code section,  
 1563 the court may also order that records maintained by law enforcement agencies, jails, and  
 1564 detention centers be restricted and unavailable to the public. Such entities shall comply  
 1565 with such restriction within 30 days of receiving a copy of such order.

1566 (g)(1) Information sealed or restricted pursuant to this Code section shall always be  
 1567 available for inspection, copying, and use:

1568 (A) As provided in subsection (c) of Code Section 42-8-65;

1569 (B) By the Judicial Qualifications Commission;

1570 (C) By a prosecuting attorney or public defender who submits a sworn affidavit to the  
 1571 clerk of court that attests that such information is relevant to a criminal proceeding;

1572 (D) Pursuant to a court order; and

1573 (E) By an individual who is the subject of sealed court files or restricted criminal  
 1574 history record information upon court order.

1575 (2) The confidentiality of such information shall be maintained insofar as practical.

1576 42-8-63.

1577 Except as ~~otherwise~~ provided in ~~this article~~ Code Section 42-8-63.1, a discharge under this  
 1578 article is not a conviction of a crime under the laws of this state and ~~may~~ shall not be used  
 1579 to disqualify a ~~person~~ an individual in any application for employment or appointment to  
 1580 office in either the public or private sector.

1581 42-8-63.1.

1582 (a) A discharge under this article may be used to disqualify ~~a person~~ an individual for  
1583 employment if:

1584 ~~(1) The offender~~ the individual was discharged under this article ~~on or after~~ between July  
1585 1, 2004; ~~and either, and June 30, 2016, and:~~

1586 ~~(2)~~(1) The employment is with a public school, private school, child welfare agency, or  
1587 a person or entity that provides day care for minor children or after school care for minor  
1588 children and the ~~defendant was discharged under this article after prosecution~~ individual  
1589 who is the subject of the inquiry was prosecuted for the offense of child molestation,  
1590 sexual battery, enticing a child for indecent purposes, sexual exploitation of a child,  
1591 pimping, pandering, or incest;

1592 ~~(3)~~(2) The employment is with a long-term care facility as defined in Code Section  
1593 31-8-51 or a person or entity that offers day care for elderly persons and the ~~defendant~~  
1594 ~~was discharged under this article after prosecution~~ individual who is the subject of the  
1595 inquiry was prosecuted for the offense of sexual battery, incest, pimping, or pandering;  
1596 or a violation of Article 8 of Chapter 5 of Title 16; or

1597 ~~(4)~~(3) The request for information is an inquiry about ~~a person~~ an individual who has  
1598 applied for employment with a facility as defined in Code Section 37-3-1 or 37-4-2 that  
1599 provides services to ~~persons~~ individuals who are mentally ill as defined in Code Section  
1600 37-1-1 or developmentally disabled as defined in Code Section 37-1-1; and the ~~person~~  
1601 individual who is the subject of the inquiry ~~to the center~~ was prosecuted for the offense  
1602 of sexual battery, incest, pimping, or pandering.

1603 (b) A discharge under this article may be used to disqualify an individual for employment  
1604 if the individual was discharged under this article on or after July 1, 2016, and:

1605 (1) The employment is with a public school, private school, child welfare agency, or a  
1606 person or entity that provides day care for minor children or after school care for minor  
1607 children and the individual who is the subject of the inquiry was prosecuted for a  
1608 violation of Title 16 in Article 5 of Chapter 5, Chapter 6, or Part 2 or 3 of Article 3 of  
1609 Chapter 12;

1610 (2) The employment is with a long-term care facility as defined in Code Section 31-8-51  
1611 or with a person or entity that offers day care for elderly persons and the individual who  
1612 is the subject of the inquiry was prosecuted for a violation of Title 16 in Article 5 or 8 of  
1613 Chapter 5; or

1614 (3) The request for information is an inquiry about an individual who has applied for  
1615 employment with a facility as defined in Code Section 37-3-1 or 37-4-2 that provides  
1616 services to individuals who are mentally ill as defined in Code Section 37-1-1 or  
1617 developmentally disabled as defined in Code Section 37-1-1 and the individual who is

1618 the subject of the inquiry was prosecuted for a violation of Title 16 in Article 8 of  
 1619 Chapter 5 or Chapter 6.

1620 ~~(b)(c)~~ Any discharge under this article may be used to disqualify ~~a person~~ an individual  
 1621 from acquiring or maintaining a peace officer certification as provided for in Chapter 8 of  
 1622 ~~Article 35 and also Title 35,~~ may disqualify ~~a person~~ an individual from employment in a  
 1623 certified position with a law enforcement unit, and may disqualify an individual from  
 1624 employment with the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council when ~~where~~  
 1625 the discharge under this article pertained to a felony offense or a crime involving moral  
 1626 turpitude.

1627 42-8-64.

1628 A defendant sentenced pursuant to this article shall have the right to appeal in the same  
 1629 manner and with the same scope and same effect as if a judgment of conviction had been  
 1630 entered and appealed from.

1631 42-8-65.

1632 (a) If otherwise allowable by law, ~~in any~~ a subsequent prosecution of the defendant for ~~any~~  
 1633 ~~other~~ another offense, ~~a~~ when a defendant has not been exonerated of guilt and discharged,  
 1634 the prior finding of guilt may be pleaded and proven as if an adjudication of guilt had been  
 1635 entered and relief had not been granted pursuant to this article.

1636 (b) The records of the Georgia Crime Information Center ~~shall be modified, without a~~  
 1637 ~~court order, to show a conviction in lieu of treatment as a first offender under this article~~  
 1638 ~~whenever the conviction of a person for another crime during the term of probation is~~  
 1639 ~~reported to the Georgia Crime Information Center. If a report is made showing that such~~  
 1640 ~~person has been afforded first offender treatment under this article on more than one~~  
 1641 ~~occasion, the Georgia Crime Information Center may report information on first offender~~  
 1642 ~~treatments subsequent to the first such first offender treatment as if they were convictions.~~  
 1643 ~~Such records may be disseminated by the Georgia Crime Information Center in the same~~  
 1644 ~~manner and subject to the same restrictions as any other records of convictions~~ showing  
 1645 treatment as a first offender shall be modified only when a court of competent jurisdiction  
 1646 enters:

1647 (1) An adjudication of guilt for the offense for which the offender has been sentenced as  
 1648 a first offender;

1649 (2) An order modifying the sentence originally imposed; or

1650 (3) An order correcting an exoneration of guilt and discharge entered pursuant to  
 1651 subsection (g) of Code Section 42-8-60.

1652 ~~(c)(1) Any individual~~ Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, any person  
 1653 who is sentenced to a term of confinement pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection (a)  
 1654 or (k) of Code Section 42-8-60 shall not be deemed to have been convicted of the offense  
 1655 during such term of confinement for all purposes except that records thereof shall be  
 1656 treated as any other records of first offenders under this article and except that such  
 1657 presumption shall not continue after completion of such person's confinement sentence.  
 1658 Upon completion of the confinement sentence, such person shall be treated in the same  
 1659 manner and the procedures to be followed by the court shall be the same as in the case  
 1660 of a person placed on probation under this article during such sentence, and records  
 1661 thereof shall only be disseminated by the Georgia Crime Information Center:

1662 (A) To criminal justice agencies, as such term is defined in Code Section 35-3-30;

1663 (B) As authorized by subsection (c) of Code Section 35-3-37; and

1664 (C) As authorized by subparagraph (a)(1)(B) of Code Sections 35-3-34 and 35-3-35.

1665 (2) If a court of competent jurisdiction adjudicates the defendant guilty while such  
 1666 defendant is serving a first offender sentence, such records may be disseminated by the  
 1667 Georgia Crime Information Center as provided in Code Sections 35-3-34 and 35-3-35.

1668 42-8-66.

1669 (a) An individual who qualified for sentencing pursuant to this article but who was not  
 1670 informed of his or her eligibility for first offender treatment may, with the consent of the  
 1671 prosecuting attorney, petition the superior court in the county in which he or she was  
 1672 convicted for ~~discharge and exoneration of guilt and discharge~~ pursuant to this article.

1673 (b) The court shall hold a hearing on the petition if requested by the petitioner or  
 1674 prosecuting attorney or desired by the court.

1675 (c) In considering a petition pursuant to this Code section, the court may consider any:

1676 (1) Evidence introduced by the petitioner;

1677 (2) Evidence introduced by the prosecuting attorney; and

1678 (3) Other relevant evidence.

1679 (d) The court may issue an order retroactively granting first offender treatment and  
 1680 discharge the defendant pursuant to this article if the court finds by a preponderance of the  
 1681 evidence that the defendant was eligible for sentencing under the terms of this article at the  
 1682 time he or she was originally sentenced and the ends of justice and the welfare of society  
 1683 are served by granting such petition.

1684 (e) The court shall send a copy of any order issued pursuant to this Code section to the  
 1685 petitioner, the prosecuting attorney, ~~and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation~~ Crime  
 1686 Information Center, and the Department of Driver Services. The Georgia ~~Bureau of~~



1687 ~~Investigation~~ Crime Information Center and the Department of Driver Services shall  
 1688 modify ~~its~~ their records accordingly.  
 1689 (f) This Code section shall not apply to a sentence that may be modified pursuant to  
 1690 subsection (f) of Code Section 17-10-1."

1691 PART VIB

1692 SECTION 6B-1.

1693 Article 2 of Chapter 7 of Title 17 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
 1694 commitment hearings, is amended by revising Code Section 17-7-32, relating to the  
 1695 disposition of commitment form, warrant, and other papers, as follows:

1696 "17-7-32.

1697 (a) The commitment form shall be delivered to the officer in whose charge the accused  
 1698 person is placed, and the officer shall deliver it with the accused person to the sheriff or the  
 1699 other person in charge of the jail. A memorandum of the commitment shall be entered on  
 1700 the warrant by the judicial officer.

1701 (b)(1) The warrant and all other papers shall be forwarded to the clerk of the ~~appropriate~~  
 1702 court having jurisdiction over the offense for delivery to the prosecuting attorney. After  
 1703 such delivery, if the prosecuting attorney decides to dismiss the case prior to filing an  
 1704 accusation or without seeking an indictment, he or she shall file a notice of such fact with  
 1705 the clerk of the court having jurisdiction over the offense. Such notice shall include the  
 1706 warrant number, if any, and any other identifying number assigned to the case by the  
 1707 Georgia Crime Information Center. Within 30 days of receiving such notice, the clerk  
 1708 of court shall transmit a copy of such notice to the Georgia Crime Information Center.

1709 (2) Nothing in this subsection shall prevent a prosecuting attorney who has probable  
 1710 cause from seeking charges against an accused within the applicable statute of  
 1711 limitations."

1712 SECTION 6B-2.

1713 Article 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
 1714 Georgia Crime Information Center, is amended in subsection (a) of Code Section 35-3-33,  
 1715 relating to the powers and duties of the center generally, by revising paragraph (10), by  
 1716 deleting "and" at the end of paragraph (15), by replacing the period with "; and" at the end  
 1717 of paragraph (16), and by adding a new paragraph (17) to read as follows:

1718 "(10) Make available, upon request, to all local and state criminal justice agencies, all  
 1719 federal criminal justice agencies, and criminal justice agencies in other states any  
 1720 information in the files of the center which will aid these agencies in the performance of

1721 their official duties, including but not limited to final disposition of offenses; sentencing  
 1722 information and conditions; orders modifying an earlier disposition; orders relating to  
 1723 probation, including modification, tolling, completion of active probation supervision,  
 1724 termination, revocation, or completion of orders entered pursuant to Article 3 of Chapter  
 1725 8 of Title 42; and orders relating to parole, including modification, tolling, termination,  
 1726 and revocation. For this purpose the center shall operate on a 24 hour basis, seven days  
 1727 a week. Such information when authorized by the council may also be made available  
 1728 to any other agency of the state or political subdivision of the state and to any other  
 1729 federal agency upon assurance by the agency concerned that the information is to be used  
 1730 for official purposes only in the prevention or detection of crime or the apprehension of  
 1731 criminal offenders;"

1732 "(17) Notify the appropriate clerk of court that a defendant has completed his or her first  
 1733 offender sentence or was exonerated of guilt and discharged pursuant to subsection (g)  
 1734 of Code Section 42-8-60 within five days of such completion or exoneration."

### 1735 SECTION 6B-3.

1736 Said article is further amended by revising subparagraphs (a)(1)(B) and (a)(1)(D) of Code  
 1737 Section 35-3-34, relating to disclosure and dissemination of criminal records to private  
 1738 persons and businesses, as follows:

1739 "(B)(i) The center ~~may~~ shall not provide records of arrests, charges, ~~and or~~ sentences  
 1740 for crimes relating to first offenders when an individual has been sentenced pursuant  
 1741 to Article 3 of Chapter 8 of Title 42 in cases where offenders have and has been  
 1742 exonerated and discharged without court adjudications adjudication of guilt as a  
 1743 matter of law or pursuant to a court order, including records relating to such  
 1744 defendant's bench warrants, failure to appear, and probation for such offense, except  
 1745 as specifically authorized by Code Section 35-3-34.1 or other law 42-8-63.1. The  
 1746 center shall not provide records of arrests, charges, or sentences when an individual  
 1747 has been sentenced as provided in Code Section 15-1-20, including records relating  
 1748 to such defendant's bench warrants, failure to appear, and probation for such offense,  
 1749 except as specifically authorized by Code Section 42-8-63.1.

1750 (ii) During the period of time after a defendant, who has been sentenced pursuant to  
 1751 Article 3 of Chapter 8 of Title 42 but has not been exonerated and discharged without  
 1752 court adjudication of guilt as a matter of law or pursuant to a court order, has  
 1753 completed active probation supervision through the remainder of such sentence, the  
 1754 center shall not provide records of arrests, charges, or sentences except as specifically  
 1755 authorized by Code Section 42-8-63.1.

1756 (iii) The center may provide records of arrests, charges, or sentences when an  
 1757 individual has been sentenced pursuant to Article 3 of Chapter 8 of Title 42 but has  
 1758 not been exonerated and discharged without court adjudication of guilt as a matter of  
 1759 law or pursuant to a court order, as specifically authorized by Code Section 42-8-63.1,  
 1760 while a defendant is under active probation supervision for such offense, or as  
 1761 provided in a court order;"

1762 "(D) The center shall not provide records of arrests, charges, or dispositions when  
 1763 access has been restricted pursuant to Code Section 15-1-20, 35-3-37, or 42-8-62.1; or"

1764 **SECTION 6B-4.**

1765 Said article is further amended by revising Code Section 35-3-34.1, relating to circumstances  
 1766 when exonerated first offender's criminal record may be disclosed, as follows:

1767 "35-3-34.1.

1768 ~~(a) Where an offender~~ When a defendant has been exonerated and discharged without  
 1769 court adjudication of guilt pursuant to Article 3 of Chapter 8 of Title 42, the center is  
 1770 authorized to provide the first offender's record of arrests, charges, or sentences ~~if the~~  
 1771 ~~offender was exonerated and discharged without a court adjudication of guilt on or after~~  
 1772 ~~July 1, 2004, and either:~~ to the employers and entities and under the conditions set forth in  
 1773 Code Section 42-8-63.1.

1774 ~~(1) The request for information is an inquiry about a person who has applied for~~  
 1775 ~~employment with a public school, private school, child welfare agency, or a person or~~  
 1776 ~~entity that provides day care for minor children or after school care for minor children~~  
 1777 ~~and the person who is the subject of the inquiry to the center was prosecuted for the~~  
 1778 ~~offense of child molestation, sexual battery, enticing a child for indecent purposes, sexual~~  
 1779 ~~exploitation of a child, pimping, pandering, or incest;~~

1780 ~~(2) The request for information is an inquiry about a person who has applied for~~  
 1781 ~~employment with a long-term care facility as defined in Code Section 31-8-51 or a person~~  
 1782 ~~or entity that offers day care for elderly persons and the person who is the subject of the~~  
 1783 ~~inquiry to the center was prosecuted for the offense of sexual battery, incest, pimping,~~  
 1784 ~~pandering, or a violation of Article 8 of Chapter 5 of Title 16; or~~

1785 ~~(3) The request for information is an inquiry about a person who has applied for~~  
 1786 ~~employment with a facility as defined in Code Section 37-3-1 or 37-4-2 that provides~~  
 1787 ~~services to persons who are mentally ill as defined in Code Section 37-1-1 or~~  
 1788 ~~developmentally disabled as defined in Code Section 37-1-1, and the person who is the~~  
 1789 ~~subject of the inquiry to the center was prosecuted for the offense of sexual battery,~~  
 1790 ~~incest, pimping, or pandering.~~

1791 ~~(b) First offender records including records of arrests, charges, or sentences may be~~  
 1792 ~~released to any law enforcement unit and the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training~~  
 1793 ~~Council where the request for information is an inquiry about a person who has applied for~~  
 1794 ~~employment in a certified position or a person who is an applicant, candidate, or peace~~  
 1795 ~~officer as defined in Code Section 35-8-2."~~

1796 **SECTION 6B-5.**

1797 Said article is further amended in Code Section 35-3-35, relating to disclosure and  
 1798 dissemination of criminal records to public agencies and political subdivisions, by revising  
 1799 subparagraphs (a)(1)(B) and (a)(1)(C) and by adding a new subparagraph to paragraph (1)  
 1800 of subsection (a) to read as follows:

1801 "(B)(i) The center ~~may~~ shall not provide records of arrests, charges, or sentences for  
 1802 crimes relating to first offenders when an individual has been sentenced pursuant to  
 1803 Article 3 of Chapter 8 of Title 42 in cases where offenders have and has been  
 1804 exonerated and discharged without court adjudications adjudication of guilt as a  
 1805 matter of law or pursuant to a court order, including records relating to such  
 1806 defendant's bench warrants, failure to appear, and probation for such offense, except  
 1807 as specifically authorized by Code Section 35-3-34.1 or other law, and 42-8-63.1.  
 1808 The center shall not provide records of arrests, charges, or sentences when an  
 1809 individual has been sentenced as provided in Code Section 15-1-20, including records  
 1810 relating to such defendant's bench warrants, failure to appear, and probation for such  
 1811 offense, except as specifically authorized by Code Section 42-8-63.1.

1812 (ii) During the period of time after a defendant, who has been sentenced pursuant to  
 1813 Article 3 of Chapter 8 of Title 42 but has not been exonerated and discharged without  
 1814 court adjudication of guilt as a matter of law or pursuant to a court order, has  
 1815 completed active probation supervision through the remainder of such sentence, the  
 1816 center shall not provide records of arrests, charges, or sentences except as specifically  
 1817 authorized by Code Section 42-8-63.1.

1818 (iii) The center may provide records of arrests, charges, or sentences when an  
 1819 individual has been sentenced pursuant to Article 3 of Chapter 8 of Title 42 but has  
 1820 not been exonerated and discharged without court adjudication of guilt as a matter of  
 1821 law or pursuant to a court order, as specifically authorized by Code Section 42-8-63.1,  
 1822 while a defendant is under active probation supervision for such offense, or as  
 1823 provided in a court order;

1824 (C) When the identifying information provided is sufficient to identify persons whose  
 1825 records are requested electronically, the center may disseminate electronically criminal  
 1826 history records of in-state felony convictions, pleas, and sentences without:

- 1827 (i) Fingerprint comparison; or  
 1828 (ii) Consent of the person whose records are requested; and  
 1829 (D) The center shall not provide records of arrests, charges, or dispositions when  
 1830 access has been restricted pursuant to Code Section 15-1-20, 35-3-37, or 42-8-62.1;"

1831 **SECTION 6B-6.**

1832 Said article is further amended by revising subsections (b), (c), and (g) of Code Section  
 1833 35-3-36, relating to the duties of state criminal agencies as to submission of fingerprints,  
 1834 photographs, or other identifying data to the center, as follows:

1835 "(b) It shall be the duty of all chiefs of police, sheriffs, prosecuting attorneys, courts,  
 1836 judges, clerks of court, community supervision officers, county or ~~department~~ Department  
 1837 of Juvenile Justice juvenile probation officers, probation officers and private probation  
 1838 officers serving pursuant to Article 6 of Chapter 8 of Title 42, wardens; or other persons  
 1839 in charge of penal and correctional institutions in this state, the Georgia Superior Court  
 1840 Clerks' Cooperative Authority, and the State Board of Pardons and Paroles to furnish the  
 1841 center with any other data deemed necessary by the center to carry out its responsibilities  
 1842 under this article.

1843 (c) All persons in charge of law enforcement agencies shall obtain or cause to be obtained  
 1844 fingerprints in accordance with the fingerprint system of identification established by the  
 1845 director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, full-face and profile photographs if photo  
 1846 equipment is available, and other available identifying data of each person arrested or taken  
 1847 into custody for an offense of a type designated in paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of Code  
 1848 Section 35-3-33, of all persons arrested or taken into custody as fugitives from justice, and  
 1849 of all unidentified human corpses in their jurisdictions; but photographs need not be taken  
 1850 if it is known that photographs of the type listed taken within the previous year are on file.  
 1851 Fingerprints and other identifying data of persons arrested or taken into custody for  
 1852 offenses other than those designated may be taken at the discretion of the law enforcement  
 1853 agency concerned. Any person arrested or taken into custody and subsequently released  
 1854 without charge or cleared of the offense through court proceedings shall have any  
 1855 fingerprint record taken in connection therewith returned ~~if required by statute~~ or deleted,  
 1856 as applicable, if the fingerprint record was taken in error or upon court order, and ~~any~~ such  
 1857 dispositions ~~must also~~ shall be reported to the center."

1858 "(g) All persons in charge of law enforcement agencies, ~~all~~ clerks of court or the Georgia  
 1859 Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority as applicable, ~~all~~ municipal judges ~~where~~  
 1860 ~~they have no clerks~~ when such judges do not have a clerk, ~~all~~ magistrates, ~~and all~~ persons  
 1861 in charge of community supervision, juvenile probation, or Article 6 of Chapter 8 of Title  
 1862 42 probation offices, and the State Board of Pardons and Paroles shall ~~supply~~ transmit to

1863 the center ~~with~~ the information described in Code Section 35-3-33 within 30 days of the  
 1864 creation or receipt of such information, except as provided in subsection (d) of this Code  
 1865 section, on the basis of the forms and instructions to be ~~supplied~~ provided by the center."

1866 **SECTION 6B-7.**

1867 Said article is further amended by revising paragraph (6) of subsection (a), subsection (h),  
 1868 and paragraph (5) of subsection (j) of Code Section 35-3-37, relating to review of individual's  
 1869 criminal history record information, as follows:

1870 "(6) 'Restrict,' 'restricted,' or 'restriction' means that the criminal history record  
 1871 information of an individual relating to a particular charge shall be available only to  
 1872 judicial officials and criminal justice agencies for law enforcement or criminal  
 1873 investigative purposes or to criminal justice agencies for purposes of employment in  
 1874 accordance with procedures established by the center and shall not be disclosed or  
 1875 otherwise made available to any private persons or businesses pursuant to Code Section  
 1876 35-3-34 or to governmental agencies or licensing and regulating agencies pursuant to  
 1877 Code Section 35-3-35."

1878 "(h) Access to an individual's criminal history record information, including any  
 1879 fingerprints or photographs of the individual taken in conjunction with the arrest, shall be  
 1880 restricted by the center for the following types of dispositions:

1881 (1) Prior to indictment, accusation, or other charging instrument:

1882 (A) The case was never referred for further prosecution to the proper prosecuting  
 1883 attorney by the arresting law enforcement agency and:

1884 (i) The offense against such individual is closed by the arresting law enforcement  
 1885 agency. It shall be the duty of the head of the arresting law enforcement agency to  
 1886 notify the center whenever a record is to be restricted pursuant to this division within  
 1887 30 days of such decision. A copy of the notice shall be sent to the accused and the  
 1888 accused's attorney, if any, by mailing the same by first-class mail within seven days  
 1889 of notifying the center; or

1890 (ii) The center does not receive notice from the arresting law enforcement agency that  
 1891 the offense has been referred to the prosecuting attorney or transferred to another law  
 1892 enforcement or prosecutorial agency of this state, any other state or a foreign nation,  
 1893 or any political subdivision thereof for prosecution and the following period of time  
 1894 has elapsed from the date of the arrest of such individual:

1895 (I) If the offense is a misdemeanor or a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated  
 1896 nature, two years;

1897 (II) If the offense is a felony, other than a serious violent felony or a felony sexual  
 1898 offense specified in Code Section 17-3-2.1 involving a victim under 16 years of age,  
 1899 four years; or

1900 (III) If the offense is a serious violent felony or a felony sexual offense specified  
 1901 in Code Section 17-3-2.1 involving a victim under 16 years of age, seven years.

1902 If the center receives notice of the filing of an indictment subsequent to the restriction  
 1903 of a record pursuant to this division, the center shall make such record available in  
 1904 accordance with Code Section 35-3-34 or 35-3-35. If the center does not receive  
 1905 notice of a charging instrument within 30 days of the applicable time periods set forth  
 1906 in this division, such record shall be restricted by the center for noncriminal justice  
 1907 purposes and shall be considered sealed.

1908 (B) The case was referred to the prosecuting attorney but was later dismissed; ~~or~~

1909 (C) The grand jury returned two no bills; ~~and~~ or

1910 (D) The grand jury returned one no bill and the applicable time period set forth in  
 1911 division (ii) of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph has expired; and

1912 (2) After indictment or accusation:

1913 (A) Except as provided in subsection (i) of this Code section, all charges were  
 1914 dismissed or nolle prossed;

1915 (B) The individual ~~pleaded guilty to or was found guilty of possession of a narcotic~~  
 1916 ~~drug, marijuana, or stimulant, depressant, or hallucinogenic drug and was sentenced in~~  
 1917 ~~accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) or (c) of Code Section 16-13-2, and~~  
 1918 ~~the individual successfully completed the terms and conditions of his or her probation;~~

1919 (C) The individual pleaded guilty to or was found guilty of a violation of paragraph (2)  
 1920 or (3) of subsection (a) of Code Section 3-3-23 and was sentenced in accordance with  
 1921 the provisions of subsection (c) of Code Section 3-3-23.1, and the individual  
 1922 successfully completed the terms and conditions of his or her probation;

1923 ~~(C)~~(D) The individual successfully completed a drug court treatment program, mental  
 1924 health treatment program, or veterans treatment program, the individual's case has been  
 1925 dismissed or nolle prossed, and he or she has not been arrested ~~for at least five years~~  
 1926 during such program, excluding any arrest for a nonserious traffic offense; or

1927 ~~(D)~~(E) The individual was acquitted of all of the charges by a judge or jury unless,  
 1928 within ten days of the verdict, the prosecuting attorney demonstrates to the trial court  
 1929 through clear and convincing evidence that the harm otherwise resulting to the  
 1930 individual is clearly outweighed by the public interest in the criminal history record  
 1931 information being publicly available because either:

1932 (i) The prosecuting attorney was barred from introducing material evidence against  
 1933 the individual on legal grounds, including, without limitation, the granting of a motion  
 1934 to suppress or motion in limine; or

1935 (ii) The individual has been formally charged with the same or similar offense within  
 1936 the previous five years."

1937 ~~"(5) Any party may file an appeal of an order entered pursuant to this subsection as~~  
 1938 ~~provided in Code Section 5-6-34. When an individual was arrested on a fugitive from~~  
 1939 ~~justice warrant as provided in Code Section 17-13-4, such individual may petition the~~  
 1940 ~~superior court in the county where the arrest occurred to restrict access to criminal history~~  
 1941 ~~record information for such warrant. Such court shall maintain jurisdiction over the case~~  
 1942 ~~for this limited purpose and duration. Such petition shall be served on the arresting law~~  
 1943 ~~enforcement agency and the prosecuting attorney. If a hearing is requested, such hearing~~  
 1944 ~~shall be held within 90 days of the filing of the petition. The court shall hear evidence~~  
 1945 ~~and shall grant an order restricting such criminal history record information if the court~~  
 1946 ~~determines that circumstances warrant restriction and that the harm otherwise resulting~~  
 1947 ~~to the individual clearly outweighs the public interest in the criminal history record~~  
 1948 ~~information being publicly available."~~

1949 **SECTION 6B-8.**

1950 Chapter 8 of Title 42 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to probation, is  
 1951 amended by revising paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of Code Section 42-8-36, relating to the  
 1952 duty of a probationer to inform his or her probation officer of residence and whereabouts and  
 1953 tolling, as follows:

1954 "(3) The effective date of the tolling of the sentence shall be the date the court enters a  
 1955 tolling order and shall continue until the probationer shall personally report to the officer,  
 1956 is taken into custody in this state, or is otherwise available to the court. The clerk of court  
 1957 shall transmit a copy of a tolling order to the Georgia Crime Information Center within  
 1958 30 days of the filing of such order."

1959 **SECTION 6B-9.**

1960 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (d) of Code Section 42-8-105, relating  
 1961 to a probationer's obligation to keep his or her probation officer informed of certain  
 1962 information, as follows:

1963 "(d) The effective date of the tolling of the sentence shall be the date the court enters a  
 1964 tolling order and shall continue until the probationer personally reports to the probation  
 1965 officer or private probation officer, as the case may be, is taken into custody in this state,  
 1966 or is otherwise available to the court, whichever event first occurs. The clerk of court, or



1967 judge of any court when there is no clerk of court, shall transmit a copy of a tolling order  
 1968 to the Georgia Crime Information Center within 30 days of the filing of such order."

1969 **PART VIC**  
 1970 **SECTION 6C-1.**

1971 Code Section 10-1-393.5 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to prohibited  
 1972 telemarketing, Internet activities, and home repair, is amended by revising division  
 1973 (b.1)(1)(B)(i) as follows:

1974 "(i) Access to his or her case or charges was restricted pursuant to Code Section  
 1975 15-1-20, 35-3-37, or 42-8-62.1;"

1976 **SECTION 6C-2.**

1977 Code Section 16-11-131 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to possession  
 1978 of firearms by convicted felons and first offender probationers, is amended by revising  
 1979 subsection (f) as follows:

1980 "(f) Any person placed on probation as a first offender pursuant to Article 3 of Chapter 8  
 1981 of Title 42 and subsequently discharged without court adjudication of guilt as a matter of  
 1982 law pursuant to Code Section ~~42-8-62~~ 42-8-60 shall, upon such discharge, be relieved from  
 1983 the disabilities imposed by this Code section."

1984 **PART VII**  
 1985 **MISDEMEANOR PROBATION SERVICES**  
 1986 **SECTION 7-1.**

1987 Title 42 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to penal institutions, is amended  
 1988 by revising Code Section 42-8-100, relating to definitions for county and municipal  
 1989 probation, as follows:

1990 "42-8-100.

1991 As used in this article, the term:

1992 (1) 'Board' means the Board of Community Supervision.

1993 (2) 'DCS' means the Department of Community Supervision.

1994 ~~(2)~~(3) 'Private probation officer' means an individual employed by a private corporation,  
 1995 private enterprise, private agency, or other private entity to supervise defendants placed  
 1996 on probation by a court for committing an ordinance violation or misdemeanor.

1997 (3)(4) 'Probation officer' means an individual employed by a governing authority of a  
 1998 county, municipality, or consolidated government to supervise defendants placed on  
 1999 probation by a court for committing an ordinance violation or misdemeanor."

2000

**SECTION 7-2**

2001 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 42-8-101, relating to agreements for  
 2002 probation services, as follows:

2003 "42-8-101.

2004 (a)(1) ~~The~~ Upon the request of the chief judge of any court within a county and with the  
 2005 express written consent of such judge, ~~with the approval of~~ the governing authority of  
 2006 such county; shall be authorized to enter into written contracts with corporations,  
 2007 enterprises, or agencies to provide probation supervision, counseling, collection services  
 2008 for all moneys to be paid by a defendant according to the terms of the sentence imposed  
 2009 on the defendant as well as any moneys which by operation of law are to be paid by the  
 2010 defendant in consequence of the conviction, and other probation services for persons  
 2011 convicted in such court and placed on probation in such county. In no case shall a private  
 2012 probation corporation or enterprise be charged with the responsibility for supervising a  
 2013 felony sentence. The final contract negotiated by the ~~chief judge~~ governing authority of  
 2014 the county with the private probation entity shall be attached to the approval by the  
 2015 governing authority of the county to privatize probation services as an exhibit thereto.  
 2016 The termination of a contract for probation services as provided for in this subsection  
 2017 ~~shall~~ may be initiated by the chief judge of the court which ~~entered into the~~ is subject to  
 2018 such contract; and shall be subject to approval by the governing authority of the county  
 2019 which entered into the contract and in accordance with the agreed upon, written  
 2020 provisions of such contract.

2021 (2) ~~The~~ Upon the request of the chief judge of any court within a county and with the  
 2022 express written consent of such judge, ~~with the approval of~~ the governing authority of  
 2023 such county, ~~is~~ shall be authorized to establish a county probation system to provide  
 2024 probation supervision, counseling, collection services for all moneys to be paid by a  
 2025 defendant according to the terms of the sentence imposed on the defendant as well as any  
 2026 moneys which by operation of law are to be paid by the defendant in consequence of the  
 2027 conviction, and other probation services for persons convicted in such court and placed  
 2028 on probation in such county.

2029 (b)(1) ~~The~~ Upon the request of the judge of the municipal court of any municipality or  
 2030 consolidated government of a municipality and county of this state and with the express  
 2031 written consent of such judge, ~~with the approval of~~ the governing authority of such  
 2032 municipality or consolidated government, ~~is~~ shall be authorized to enter into written

2033 contracts with private corporations, enterprises, or agencies to provide probation  
 2034 supervision, counseling, collection services for all moneys to be paid by a defendant  
 2035 according to the terms of the sentence imposed on the defendant as well as any moneys  
 2036 which by operation of law are to be paid by the defendant in consequence of the  
 2037 conviction, and other probation services for persons convicted in such court and placed  
 2038 on probation. The final contract negotiated by the ~~judge~~ governing authority of the  
 2039 municipality or consolidated government with the private probation entity shall be  
 2040 attached to the approval by the governing authority of the municipality or consolidated  
 2041 government to privatize probation services as an exhibit thereto. The termination of a  
 2042 contract for probation services as provided for in this subsection ~~shall~~ may be initiated  
 2043 by the chief judge of the court which ~~entered into the~~ is subject to such contract and shall  
 2044 be subject to approval by the governing authority of the municipality or consolidated  
 2045 government which entered into the contract and in accordance with the agreed upon,  
 2046 written provisions of such contract.

2047 (2) ~~The~~ Upon the request of the judge of the municipal court of any municipality or  
 2048 consolidated government of a municipality and county of this state and with the express  
 2049 written consent of such judge, ~~with the approval of~~ the governing authority of such  
 2050 municipality or consolidated government, ~~is~~ shall be authorized to establish a probation  
 2051 system to provide probation supervision, counseling, collection services for all moneys  
 2052 to be paid by a defendant according to the terms of the sentence imposed on the defendant  
 2053 as well as any moneys which by operation of law are to be paid by the defendant in  
 2054 consequence of the conviction, and other probation services for persons convicted in such  
 2055 court and placed on probation."

### 2056 SECTION 7-3.

2057 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (f) of Code Section 42-8-102, relating  
 2058 to probation, supervision, and revocation, as follows:

2059 "(f)(1) The sentencing judge shall not lose jurisdiction over any person placed on  
 2060 probation during the term of his or her probated sentence. As further set forth in this  
 2061 subsection, the judge may revoke any or all of the probated sentence, rescind any or all  
 2062 of the sentence, or, in any manner deemed advisable by the judge, modify or change the  
 2063 probated sentence, including tolling the sentence as provided in this article, at any time  
 2064 during the period of time originally prescribed for the probated sentence to run.

2065 (2)(A) When the sole basis for a probation revocation is for failure to pay fines,  
 2066 statutory surcharges, or probation supervision fees, the probationer shall be scheduled  
 2067 to appear on the court's next available court calendar for a hearing on such issue. No  
 2068 prehearing arrest warrant shall be issued under such circumstances. Absent a waiver,

2069 the court shall not revoke a probationary sentence for failure to pay fines, statutory  
 2070 surcharges, or probation supervision fees without holding a hearing, inquiring into the  
 2071 reasons for the probationer's failure to pay, and, if a probationary sentence is revoked,  
 2072 making an express written determination that the probationer has not made sufficient  
 2073 bona fide efforts to pay and the probationer's failure to pay was willful or that adequate  
 2074 alternative types of punishment do not exist. Should the probationer fail to appear at  
 2075 such hearing, the court may, in its discretion, revoke the probated sentence.

2076 ~~(3)~~(B) A person otherwise found eligible to have his or her probation modified or  
 2077 terminated pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not be deemed ineligible  
 2078 for modification or termination of probation solely due to his or her failure to pay fines,  
 2079 statutory surcharges, or probation supervision fees.

2080 (3)(A) When the sole basis for a probation revocation is for failure to report as directed  
 2081 by his or her probation officer or private probation officer, as the case may be, such  
 2082 officer shall prepare an affidavit for the court, averring, at a minimum, that:

2083 (i) The probationer has failed to report to his or her probation officer or private  
 2084 probation officer, as the case may be, on at least two occasions;

2085 (ii) The officer has attempted to contact the probationer at least two times by  
 2086 telephone or e-mail at the probationer's last known telephone number or e-mail  
 2087 address, which information shall be listed in the affidavit;

2088 (iii) The officer has checked the local jail rosters and determined that the probationer  
 2089 is not incarcerated;

2090 (iv) The officer has sent a letter by first-class mail to the probationer's last known  
 2091 address, which shall be listed in the affidavit, advising the probationer that the officer  
 2092 will seek to have the probationer arrested and have his or her probation revoked if the  
 2093 probationer does not report to such officer in person within ten days of the date on  
 2094 which the letter was mailed; and

2095 (v) The probationer has failed to report to the probation officer or private probation  
 2096 officer, as the case may be, as directed in the letter set forth in division (iv) of this  
 2097 subparagraph and ten days have passed since the date on which the letter was mailed.

2098 (B) In the event the probationer reports to his or her probation officer or private  
 2099 probation officer, as the case may be, within the period prescribed in division (iv) of  
 2100 subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, the probationer may be scheduled to appear on the  
 2101 next available court calendar for a hearing to consider whether the probation sentence  
 2102 should be revoked in whole or in part.

2103 (C) A probation officer or private probation officer, as the case may be, shall submit  
 2104 the affidavit required by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph together with his or her

2105 request for an arrest warrant, and the court may, in its discretion, issue a warrant for the  
 2106 arrest of the probationer.

2107 (4) At any revocation hearing, upon proof that the probationer has violated probation:

2108 (A) For failure to report to probation or failure to pay fines, statutory surcharges, or  
 2109 probation supervision fees, the court shall consider the use of alternatives to  
 2110 confinement, including community service, modification of the terms of probation, or  
 2111 any other alternative deemed appropriate by the court. The court shall consider whether  
 2112 a failure to pay court imposed financial obligations was willful. In the event an  
 2113 alternative is not warranted, the court shall revoke the balance of probation or a period  
 2114 not to exceed 120 days in confinement, whichever is less; and

2115 (B) For failure to comply with any other general provision of probation or suspension,  
 2116 the court shall consider the use of alternatives to confinement, including community  
 2117 service or any other alternative deemed appropriate by the court. In the event an  
 2118 alternative is not warranted, the court shall revoke the balance of probation or a period  
 2119 not to exceed two years in confinement, whichever is less."

2120 **SECTION 7-4.**

2121 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (b) of and adding a new subsection to  
 2122 Code Section 42-8-103, relating to pay-only probation, to read as follows:

2123 "(b) When pay-only probation is imposed, the probation supervision fees shall be capped  
 2124 so as not to exceed three months of ordinary probation supervision fees notwithstanding  
 2125 the number of cases for which a fine and statutory surcharge were imposed or that the  
 2126 defendant was sentenced to serve consecutive sentences; provided, however, that collection  
 2127 of any probation supervision fee shall terminate as soon as all court imposed fines and  
 2128 statutory surcharges are paid in full; and provided, further, that when all such fines and  
 2129 statutory surcharges are paid in full, the probation officer or private probation officer, as  
 2130 the case may be, shall submit an order to the court terminating the probated sentence within  
 2131 30 days of fulfillment of such conditions. The court shall terminate such probated sentence  
 2132 or issue an order stating why such probated sentence shall continue."

2133 "(d) When a defendant is serving pay-only probation, upon motion by the defendant, the  
 2134 court may discharge such defendant from further supervision or otherwise terminate  
 2135 probation when it is satisfied that its action would be in the best interest of justice and the  
 2136 welfare of society."

2137 **SECTION 7-5.**

2138 Said title is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

2139 "42-8-103.1.  
 2140 (a) When a defendant is serving consecutive misdemeanor sentences, whether as a result  
 2141 of one case from one jurisdiction or multiple cases from multiple jurisdictions, upon  
 2142 motion by the defendant, the court may discharge such defendant from further supervision  
 2143 or otherwise terminate probation when it is satisfied that its action would be in the best  
 2144 interest of justice and the welfare of society. Such motion shall not be ripe until 12 months  
 2145 after the sentence was entered and every four months thereafter. The defendant shall serve  
 2146 the applicable entity or governing authority that is providing his or her probation services  
 2147 with a copy of such motion.  
 2148 (b) When a defendant is serving consecutive misdemeanor sentences, his or her probation  
 2149 officer or private probation officer, as the case may be, shall review such case after 12  
 2150 consecutive months of probation supervision wherein the defendant has paid in full all  
 2151 court imposed fines, statutory surcharges, and restitution and has otherwise completed all  
 2152 testing, evaluations, and rehabilitative treatment programs ordered by the court to  
 2153 determine if such officer recommends early termination of probation. Each such case shall  
 2154 be reviewed every four months thereafter for the same determination until the termination,  
 2155 expiration, or other disposition of the case. If such officer recommends early termination,  
 2156 he or she shall immediately submit an order to the court to effectuate such purpose."

#### 2157 **SECTION 7-6.**

2158 Said title is further amended by revising subparagraph (b)(1)(D) of Code Section 42-8-105,  
 2159 relating to the probationer's obligation to keep an officer informed of certain information and  
 2160 tolling, as follows:

2161 "(D) The officer has sent a letter by first-class mail to the probationer's last known  
 2162 address, which shall be listed in the affidavit, advising the probationer that the officer  
 2163 will seek a tolling order if the probationer does not report to such officer, ~~either by~~  
 2164 ~~telephone or in person;~~ within ten days of the date on which the letter was mailed; and"

#### 2165 **SECTION 7-7.**

2166 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 42-8-106, relating to the creation of  
 2167 the advisory council, as follows:

2168 "42-8-106.

2169 (a) There is created ~~an~~ a judicial advisory council committee with respect to the provisions  
 2170 of this article composed of one superior court judge designated by The Council of Superior  
 2171 Court Judges of Georgia, one state court judge designated by The Council of State Court  
 2172 Judges of Georgia, one municipal court judge designated by the Council of Municipal  
 2173 Court Judges of Georgia, one probate court judge designated by The Council of Probate

2174 Court Judges of Georgia, one magistrate designated by the Council of Magistrate Court  
 2175 Judges, one attorney who specializes in criminal defense appointed by the Governor, one  
 2176 probation officer appointed by the Governor, and one private probation officer or  
 2177 individual with expertise in private probation services by virtue of his or her training or  
 2178 employment appointed by the Governor. The appointing authority shall determine the  
 2179 length of its appointee's term serving on such ~~council~~ committee. The judicial advisory  
 2180 committee shall provide advice and consultation to the board and DCS on matters relating  
 2181 to this article. The judicial advisory ~~council~~ committee shall elect a chairperson from  
 2182 among its membership and such other officers as it deems necessary.

2183 42-8-106.1.

2184 ~~(b)~~ The board shall have the following powers and duties;  ~~provided that, with respect to~~  
 2185  ~~promulgating the rules, regulations, and standards set forth in this subsection, the board~~  
 2186  ~~shall act only upon consultation with and approval by the advisory board~~ seek input from  
 2187  the commissioner of community supervision:

2188 ~~(1) To review the uniform professional standards for private probation officers and~~  
 2189  ~~uniform contract standards for private probation contracts established in Code Section~~  
 2190  ~~42-8-107 and submit a report with its recommendations to the General Assembly;~~

2191 ~~(2)~~(1) To promulgate rules and regulations to implement ~~those~~ the uniform professional  
 2192 standards for probation officers and uniform ~~agreement~~ contract standards for the  
 2193 establishment of probation services by a county, municipality, or consolidated  
 2194 government established in Code Section 42-8-107;

2195 ~~(3)~~(2) To promulgate rules and regulations establishing a 40 hour initial orientation for  
 2196 newly hired private probation officers and for 20 hours per annum of continuing  
 2197 education for private probation officers, provided that the 40 hour initial orientation shall  
 2198 not be required of any person who has successfully completed a basic course of training  
 2199 for supervision of probationers or parolees certified by the Georgia Peace Officer  
 2200 Standards and Training Council or any private probation officer who has been employed  
 2201 by a private probation corporation, enterprise, or agency for at least six months as of  
 2202 July 1, 1996;

2203 ~~(4)~~(3) To promulgate rules and regulations establishing a 40 hour initial orientation for  
 2204 probation officers and for 20 hours per annum of continuing education for such probation  
 2205 officers, provided that the 40 hour initial orientation shall not be required of any person  
 2206 who has successfully completed a basic course of training for supervision of probationers  
 2207 or parolees certified by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council or any  
 2208 probation officer who has been employed by a county, municipality, or consolidated  
 2209 government as of March 1, 2006;

2210 ~~(5)(4)~~ To promulgate rules and regulations relative to compliance with the provisions of  
 2211 this article; and enforcement mechanisms ~~that may include, but are not limited to, the~~  
 2212 ~~imposition of sanctions and fines and the voiding of contracts or agreements;~~  
 2213 ~~(6)(5)~~ To promulgate rules and regulations establishing registration for any private  
 2214 corporation, private enterprise, private agency, county, municipality, or consolidated  
 2215 government providing probation services under the provisions of this article, subject to  
 2216 the provisions of Code Section 42-8-109.3;  
 2217 ~~(7) To produce an annual summary report;~~  
 2218 ~~(8)(6)~~ To promulgate rules and regulations requiring criminal history record checks of  
 2219 individuals seeking to become private probation officers and establishing procedures for  
 2220 such criminal record checks. ~~The Department of Community Supervision DCS~~ on behalf  
 2221 of the board shall conduct a criminal history records check for individuals seeking to  
 2222 become probation officers as provided in Code Section 35-3-34. The board shall  
 2223 promulgate rules and regulations relating to restrictions regarding misdemeanor  
 2224 convictions. An agency or private entity shall also be authorized to conduct a criminal  
 2225 history ~~background~~ records check of a person employed as a probation officer or private  
 2226 probation officer or individuals seeking such positions. The criminal history records  
 2227 check may be conducted in accordance with Code Section 35-3-34 and may be based  
 2228 upon the submission of fingerprints of the individual whose records are requested. The  
 2229 Georgia Bureau of Investigation shall submit the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of  
 2230 Investigation under the rules established by the United States Department of Justice for  
 2231 processing and identification of records. The federal record, if any, shall be obtained and  
 2232 returned to the requesting entity or agency;  
 2233 ~~(9) To create committees from among the membership of the board as well as appoint~~  
 2234 ~~other persons to serve in an advisory capacity to the board in implementing this article;~~  
 2235 ~~and~~  
 2236 ~~(10)(7)~~ To promulgate rules and regulations requiring probation officers and private  
 2237 probation officers to be registered with ~~the board~~ DCS, pay a fee for such registration,  
 2238 and provide for the ~~imposition of~~ board to impose sanctions and fines on such officers for  
 2239 misconduct; and  
 2240 (8) To impose sanctions for noncompliance with this article or the board's rules and  
 2241 regulations."

#### 2242 SECTION 7-8.

2243 Said title is further amended by revising subsections (a), (c), and (d) of Code Section  
 2244 42-8-107, relating to uniform professional standards and uniform contract standards, as  
 2245 follows:



2246 "(a) The uniform professional standards contained in this subsection shall be met by any  
 2247 person employed as and using the title of a private probation officer or probation officer.  
 2248 Any such person shall be at least 21 years of age at the time of appointment to the position  
 2249 of private probation officer or probation officer and shall have completed a standard  
 2250 two-year college course or have four years of law enforcement experience; provided,  
 2251 however, that any person employed as a private probation officer as of July 1, 1996, and  
 2252 who had at least six months of experience as a private probation officer or any person  
 2253 employed as a probation officer by a county, municipality, or consolidated government as  
 2254 of March 1, 2006, shall be exempt from such college requirements. Every private  
 2255 probation officer shall receive an initial 40 hours of orientation upon employment and shall  
 2256 receive 20 hours of continuing education per annum as approved by ~~the board~~ DCS,  
 2257 provided that the 40 hour initial orientation shall not be required of any person who has  
 2258 successfully completed a basic course of training for supervision of probationers or  
 2259 parolees certified by the Peace Officer Standards and Training Council or any private  
 2260 probation officer who has been employed by a private probation corporation, enterprise,  
 2261 or agency for at least six months as of July 1, 1996, or any person employed as a probation  
 2262 officer by a county, municipality, or consolidated government as of March 1, 2006. In no  
 2263 event shall any person convicted of a felony be employed as a probation officer or private  
 2264 probation officer."

2265 "(c) The uniform contract standards contained in this subsection shall apply to all counties,  
 2266 municipalities, and consolidated governments that enter into agreements ~~with a judge~~ to  
 2267 provide probation services under the authority of Code Section 42-8-101. The terms of any  
 2268 such agreement shall state at a minimum:

- 2269 (1) The extent of the services to be rendered by the local governing authority providing  
 2270 probation services;
- 2271 (2) Any requirements for staff qualifications, including those contained in this Code  
 2272 section;
- 2273 (3) Requirements for criminal record checks of staff in compliance with the rules and  
 2274 regulations established by the board;
- 2275 (4) Policies and procedures for the training of staff that comply with the rules and  
 2276 regulations established by the board;
- 2277 (5) Staffing levels and standards for offender supervision, including frequency and type  
 2278 of contacts with offenders;
- 2279 (6) Procedures for handling the collection of all court ordered fines, fees, and restitution;
- 2280 (7) Circumstances under which revocation of an offender's probation may be  
 2281 recommended;
- 2282 (8) Reporting and record-keeping requirements; and

2283 (9) Default and agreement termination procedures.  
 2284 ~~(d) The board shall review the uniform professional standards and uniform contract and~~  
 2285 ~~agreement standards contained in this Code section and shall submit a report on its findings~~  
 2286 ~~to the General Assembly. The board shall submit its initial report on or before January 1,~~  
 2287 ~~2017, and shall continue such reviews every two years thereafter. Nothing contained in~~  
 2288 ~~such report shall be considered to authorize or require a change in such standards without~~  
 2289 ~~action by the General Assembly having the force and effect of law. Such report shall~~  
 2290 ~~provide information which will allow the General Assembly to review the effectiveness of~~  
 2291 ~~the minimum professional standards and, if necessary, to revise such standards. This~~  
 2292 ~~subsection shall not be interpreted to prevent the board from making recommendations to~~  
 2293 ~~the General Assembly prior to its required review and report."~~

2294 **SECTION 7-9.**

2295 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 42-8-108, relating to quarterly  
 2296 reporting to the judge, as follows:

2297 "42-8-108.

2298 (a) Any private corporation, private enterprise, or private agency contracting to provide  
 2299 probation services or any county, municipality, or consolidated government entering into  
 2300 an agreement under the provisions of this article shall provide to the judge ~~with whom the~~  
 2301 who consented to such contract or agreement ~~was made~~ and ~~the board~~ DCS a quarterly  
 2302 report summarizing the number of offenders under supervision; the amount of fines,  
 2303 statutory surcharges, and restitution collected; the amount of fees collected and the nature  
 2304 of such fees, including probation supervision fees, rehabilitation programming fees,  
 2305 electronic monitoring fees, drug or alcohol detection device fees, substance abuse or mental  
 2306 health evaluation or treatment fees if such services are provided directly or otherwise to the  
 2307 extent such fees are known, and drug testing fees; the number of community service hours  
 2308 performed by probationers under supervision; a listing of any other service for which a  
 2309 probationer was required to pay to attend; the number of offenders for whom supervision  
 2310 or rehabilitation has been terminated and the reason for the termination; and the number  
 2311 of warrants issued during the quarter, in such detail as ~~the board~~ DCS may require.  
 2312 Information reported pursuant to this subsection shall be annually submitted to the  
 2313 governing authority that entered into such contract and thereafter be subject to disclosure  
 2314 pursuant to Article 4 of Chapter 18 of Title 50. Local governments are encouraged to post  
 2315 electronic copies of the annual report on the local government's website, if such website  
 2316 exists.

2317 (b) All records of any private corporation, private enterprise, or private agency contracting  
 2318 to provide services or of any county, municipality, or consolidated government entering

2319 into an agreement under the provisions of this article shall be open to inspection upon the  
 2320 request of the affected county, municipality, consolidated government, court, the  
 2321 Department of Audits and Accounts, an auditor appointed by the affected county,  
 2322 municipality, or consolidated government, Department of Corrections, ~~Department of~~  
 2323 ~~Community Supervision~~ DCS, State Board of Pardons and Paroles, or the board."

2324 **SECTION 7-10.**

2325 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 42-8-109.2, relating to confidentiality  
 2326 of records, as follows:

2327 "42-8-109.2.

2328 (a) Except as provided in subsection (a) of Code Section 42-8-108 and subsection (b) of  
 2329 this Code section, all reports, files, records, and papers of whatever kind relative to the  
 2330 supervision of probationers by a private corporation, private enterprise, or private agency  
 2331 contracting under the provisions of this article or by a county, municipality, or consolidated  
 2332 government providing probation services under this article are declared to be confidential  
 2333 and shall be available only to the affected county, municipality, or consolidated  
 2334 government, or an auditor appointed by such county, municipality, or consolidated  
 2335 government, the judge handling a particular case, the Department of Audits and Accounts,  
 2336 Department of Corrections, ~~Department of Community Supervision~~ DCS, State Board of  
 2337 Pardons and Paroles, or the board.

2338 (b)(1) Any probationer under supervision under this article shall:

2339 (A) Be provided with a written receipt and a balance statement each time he or she  
 2340 makes a payment;

2341 (B) Be permitted, upon written request, to have a copy of correspondence, payment  
 2342 records, and reporting history from his or her probation file, one time, and thereafter,  
 2343 he or she shall be required to pay a fee as set by ~~the board~~ DCS; provided, however,  
 2344 that the board shall promulgate rules and regulations clarifying what confidential  
 2345 information may be withheld from such disclosure; and

2346 (C) Be permitted, upon written request to ~~the board~~ DCS, to have a copy of the  
 2347 supervision case notes from his or her probation file when the commissioner of  
 2348 community supervision authorizes the release of such information in a written order;  
 2349 provided, however, that the board shall promulgate rules and regulations clarifying  
 2350 what confidential information may be withheld from such disclosure.

2351 (2) When a probationer claims that information is being improperly withheld from his  
 2352 or her file, the probationer may file a motion with the sentencing court seeking an in  
 2353 camera inspection of such file. The probationer shall serve such motion on the  
 2354 prosecuting attorney and probation officer or private probation officer as appropriate.

2355 (3) The following shall be subject to disclosure pursuant to Article 4 of Chapter 18 of  
2356 Title 50:

2357 (A) The board's rules and regulations regarding contracts or agreements for the  
2358 provision of probation services;

2359 (B) The board's rules and regulations regarding the conduct of business by private  
2360 entities providing probation services as authorized by this article;

2361 (C) The board's rules and regulations regarding county, municipal, or consolidated  
2362 governments establishing probation systems as authorized by this article; and

2363 (D) The rules, regulations, operating procedures, and guidelines of any private  
2364 corporation, private enterprise, or private agency providing probation services under the  
2365 provisions of this article.

2366 (c) In the event of a transfer of the supervision of a probationer from a private corporation,  
2367 private enterprise, or private agency or county, municipality, or consolidated government  
2368 providing probation services under this article to ~~the Department of Community~~  
2369 ~~Supervision, the Department of Community Supervision~~ DCS, DCS shall have access to  
2370 any relevant reports, files, records, and papers of the transferring entity."

2371 **SECTION 7-11.**

2372 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 42-8-109.3, relating to registration  
2373 with the board, as follows:

2374 "42-8-109.3.

2375 (a)(1) All private corporations, private enterprises, and private agencies contracting or  
2376 offering to contract for probation services shall register with ~~the board~~ DCS before  
2377 entering into any contract to provide services. Any private corporation, private  
2378 enterprise, or private agency registered with ~~the County and Municipal Probation~~  
2379 ~~Advisory Council~~ the board on or before June 30, ~~2015~~ 2016, shall be deemed registered  
2380 with ~~the board~~ DCS; provided, however, that ~~the board~~ DCS shall be authorized to review  
2381 such contract and shall be responsible for subsequent renewals or changes to such  
2382 contract. The information included in such registration shall include the name of the  
2383 corporation, enterprise, or agency, its principal business address and telephone number,  
2384 the name of its agent for communication, and other information in such detail as ~~the~~  
2385 ~~board~~ DCS may require. No registration fee shall be required.

2386 (2) Any private corporation, private enterprise, or private agency required to register  
2387 under the provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection which fails or refuses to do so  
2388 shall be subject to revocation of any existing contracts, in addition to any other fines or  
2389 sanctions imposed by the board.

2390 (b)(1) All counties, municipalities, and consolidated governments agreeing or offering  
 2391 to agree to establish a probation system shall register with ~~the board~~ DCS before entering  
 2392 into an agreement ~~with the court~~ to provide services. Any county, municipality, or  
 2393 consolidated government that has a probation system registered with the ~~County and~~  
 2394 ~~Municipal Probation Advisory Council~~ board on or before June 30, ~~2015~~ 2016, shall be  
 2395 deemed registered with ~~the board~~ DCS; provided, however, that ~~the board~~ DCS shall be  
 2396 authorized to review such systems and shall be responsible for subsequent renewals or  
 2397 changes to such systems. The information included in such registration shall include the  
 2398 name of the county, municipality, or consolidated government, the principal business  
 2399 address and telephone number, a contact name for communication with ~~the board~~ DCS,  
 2400 and other information in such detail as ~~the board~~ DCS may require. No registration fee  
 2401 shall be required.

2402 (2) Any county, municipality, or consolidated government required to register under the  
 2403 provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection which fails or refuses to do so shall be  
 2404 subject to revocation of existing agreements, in addition to any other sanctions imposed  
 2405 by the board."

#### 2406 SECTION 7-12.

2407 Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (1) of subsection (a) and paragraph (1)  
 2408 of subsection (b) of Code Section 42-8-109.4, relating to the applicability of the article to  
 2409 contractors for probation services, as follows:

2410 "(1) Register with ~~the board~~ DCS;"

2411 "(1) Register with ~~the board~~ DCS;"

#### 2412 PART VIII

#### 2413 PROVIDING FOR MISCELLANEOUS

#### 2414 CROSS-REFERENCES IN TITLE 42

#### 2415 SECTION 8-1.

2416 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (e) of Code Section 42-1-14, relating to  
 2417 risk assessment classification, as follows:

2418 "(e) Any sexually dangerous predator shall be required to wear an electronic monitoring  
 2419 system that shall have, at a minimum:

2420 (1) The capacity to locate and record the location of a sexually dangerous predator by a  
 2421 link to a global positioning satellite system;

2422 (2) The capacity to timely report or record a sexually dangerous predator's presence near  
 2423 or within a crime scene or in a prohibited area or the sexually dangerous predator's  
 2424 departure from specific geographic locations; and

2425 (3) An alarm that is automatically activated and broadcasts the sexually dangerous  
 2426 predator's location if the global positioning satellite monitor is removed or tampered with  
 2427 by anyone other than a law enforcement official designated to maintain and remove or  
 2428 replace the equipment.

2429 Such electronic monitoring system shall be worn by a sexually dangerous predator for the  
 2430 remainder of his or her natural life. The sexually dangerous predator shall pay the cost of  
 2431 such system to the Department of Community ~~Service~~ Supervision if the sexually  
 2432 dangerous predator is under probation or parole supervision and to the sheriff after the  
 2433 sexually dangerous predator completes his or her term of probation and parole or if the  
 2434 sexually dangerous predator has moved to this state from another state, territory, or  
 2435 country. The electronic monitoring system shall be placed upon the sexually dangerous  
 2436 predator prior to his or her release from confinement. If the sexual offender is not in  
 2437 custody, within 72 hours of the decision classifying the sexual offender as a sexually  
 2438 dangerous predator in accordance with subsection (b) of this Code section, the sexually  
 2439 dangerous predator shall report to the sheriff of the county of his or her residence for  
 2440 purposes of having the electronic monitoring system placed on the sexually dangerous  
 2441 predator."

#### 2442 **SECTION 8-2.**

2443 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (i) of Code Section 42-2-11, relating to  
 2444 the powers and duties of the Board of Corrections, as follows:

2445 "(i) The board shall have the authority to request bids and proposals and to enter into  
 2446 contracts for the operation of probation detention centers by private companies and entities  
 2447 for the confinement of probationers under Code Section 42-8-35.4 ~~and probation diversion~~  
 2448 ~~centers for the confinement of probationers under Code Section 42-8-35.5.~~ The board shall  
 2449 have the authority to adopt, establish, and promulgate rules and regulations for the  
 2450 operation of probation detention ~~and probation diversion~~ centers by private companies and  
 2451 entities."

#### 2452 **SECTION 8-3.**

2453 Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (4) of subsection (a) of Code Section  
 2454 42-2-15, relating to the employee benefit fund, as follows:

2455 "(4) 'Facility' means a prison, institution, detention center, ~~diversion center~~, or such other  
 2456 similar property under the jurisdiction or operation of the department."

2457 **SECTION 8-4.**

2458 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (g) of Code Section 42-8-34, relating to  
2459 sentencing hearings and determinations, as follows:

2460 "(g) The sentencing judge shall not lose jurisdiction over any person placed on probation  
2461 during the term of the person's probated sentence. The judge is empowered to revoke any  
2462 or all of the probated sentence, rescind any or all of the sentence, or, in any manner deemed  
2463 advisable by the judge, modify or change the probated sentence, including ordering the  
2464 probationer into the sentencing options system, as provided in Article 6 of Chapter 3 of this  
2465 title, at any time during the period of time prescribed for the probated sentence to run. In  
2466 addition, when the judge is considering revoking a probated sentence in order to require  
2467 the defendant to enter a drug court division, mental health court division, family treatment  
2468 court division, or veterans court division and the length of the original sentence is  
2469 insufficient to authorize such revocation, the defendant may voluntarily agree to an  
2470 extension of his or her original sentence within the maximum sentence allowed by law,  
2471 notwithstanding subsection (f) of Code Section 17-10-1. Such extension shall be for a  
2472 period not to exceed three years, and upon completion of such specific court division  
2473 program, the court may modify the terms of probation in accordance with subparagraph  
2474 (a)(5)(A) of Code Section 17-10-1."

2475 **SECTION 8-5.**

2476 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (c) of Code Section 42-8-34.1, relating  
2477 to revocation of probated or suspended sentence, as follows:

2478 "(c) At any revocation hearing, upon proof that the defendant has violated any general  
2479 provision of probation or suspension other than by commission of a new felony offense,  
2480 the court shall consider the use of alternatives to include community service, ~~diversion~~  
2481 ~~centers~~, probation detention centers, special alternative incarceration, or any other  
2482 alternative to confinement deemed appropriate by the court or as provided by the state or  
2483 county. In the event the court determines that the defendant does not meet the criteria for  
2484 such alternatives, the court may revoke the balance of probation or not more than two years  
2485 in confinement, whichever is less."

2486 **SECTION 8-6.**

2487 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 42-8-35.5, relating to confinement in  
2488 probation diversion centers, as follows:

2489 "42-8-35.5.

2490 ~~(a) Notwithstanding any other terms and conditions of probation which may be imposed,~~  
2491 ~~a court may require that probationers sentenced to a period of not less than one year on~~

2492 ~~probation shall satisfactorily complete, as a condition of such probation, a program in a~~  
 2493 ~~probation diversion center. Probationers so sentenced shall be required to serve a period~~  
 2494 ~~of confinement as specified in the court order, which confinement period shall be computed~~  
 2495 ~~from the date of initial confinement in the diversion center.~~

2496 ~~(b) The court shall determine that the defendant is at least 17 years of age at the time of~~  
 2497 ~~sentencing, is capable both physically and mentally of maintaining paid employment in the~~  
 2498 ~~community, and does not unnecessarily jeopardize the safety of the community.~~

2499 ~~(c) The Department of Corrections may assess and collect room and board fees from~~  
 2500 ~~diversion center program participants at a level set by the Department of Corrections~~  
 2501 ~~Reserved."~~

#### 2502 **SECTION 8-7.**

2503 Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of Code Section  
 2504 42-8-111, relating to court issuance of certificate for installation of ignition interlock devices,  
 2505 as follows:

2506 "(3) Such person shall participate in a substance abuse treatment program as defined in  
 2507 paragraph (16.2) of Code Section 40-5-1, ~~or a drug court division program in compliance~~  
 2508 ~~with Code Section 15-1-15, a mental health court division in compliance with Code~~  
 2509 ~~Section 15-1-16, a veterans court division in compliance with Code Section 15-1-17, or~~  
 2510 ~~an operating under the influence court division in compliance with Code Section 15-1-19~~  
 2511 ~~for a period of not less than 120 days."~~

### 2512 **PART IX**

#### 2513 **PAROLE BOARD AUTHORITY REGARDING**

#### 2514 **CERTAIN DRUG OFFENDERS**

#### 2515 **SECTION 9-1.**

2516 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 42-9-45, relating to  
 2517 the State Board of Pardons and Paroles general rule-making authority, as follows:

2518 "(b)(1) An inmate serving a misdemeanor sentence or misdemeanor sentences shall only  
 2519 be eligible for consideration for parole after the expiration of six months of his or her  
 2520 sentence or sentences or one-third of the time of his or her sentence or sentences,  
 2521 whichever is greater.

2522 (2) Except as otherwise provided in Code Sections 17-10-6.1 and 17-10-7 and  
 2523 ~~paragraph~~ paragraphs (3) and (4) of this subsection, an inmate serving a felony sentence  
 2524 or felony sentences shall only be eligible for consideration for parole after the expiration  
 2525 of nine months of his or her sentence or one-third of the time of the sentences, whichever



2526 is greater. Except as otherwise provided in Code Sections 17-10-6.1 and 17-10-7 and  
 2527 ~~paragraph~~ paragraphs (3) and (4) of this subsection, inmates serving sentences  
 2528 aggregating 21 years or more shall become eligible for consideration for parole upon  
 2529 completion of the service of seven years.

2530 (3) When an inmate was sentenced pursuant to subsection (d) of Code Section 16-13-30  
 2531 and subsection (c) of Code Section 17-10-7 to a term of at least 12 years and up to a life  
 2532 sentence, he or she may become eligible for consideration for parole if he or she:

2533 (A) Has never been convicted of:

2534 (i) A serious violent felony as such term is defined in Code Section 17-10-6.1;

2535 (ii) An offense for which he or she was or could have been required to register  
 2536 pursuant to Code Section 42-1-12; provided, however, that this paragraph shall not  
 2537 apply to any felony that became punishable as a misdemeanor on or after July 1,  
 2538 2006;

2539 (iii) A violation of paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (b) of Code Section 16-5-21;

2540 (iv) A violation of Code Section 16-11-106; and

2541 (v) A violation of Code Section 16-11-131;

2542 (B) Has completed at least 12 years of his or her sentence;

2543 (C) Has obtained a low-risk for recidivism rating as determined by a validated risk  
 2544 assessment instrument approved by the Department of Corrections;

2545 (D) Has been classified as a medium or less than medium security risk for institutional  
 2546 housing classification purposes by the Department of Corrections;

2547 (E) Has completed all criminogenic programming requirements as determined by a  
 2548 validated risk assessment instrument approved by the Department of Corrections;

2549 (F) In the 12 months preceding consideration, has not been found guilty of any serious  
 2550 disciplinary infractions; and

2551 (G) Has a high school diploma or general educational development (GED) diploma,  
 2552 unless he or she is unable to obtain such educational achievement due to a learning  
 2553 disability or illiteracy. If the inmate is incapable of obtaining such education, he or she  
 2554 shall have completed a job skills training program, a literacy program, an adult basic  
 2555 education program, or a faith based program.

2556 (4) When an inmate was sentenced pursuant to subsection (c), (e), or (l) of Code Section  
 2557 16-13-30 and subsection (c) of Code Section 17-10-7 to a term of at least six years, he or  
 2558 she may become eligible for consideration for parole if he or she:

2559 (A) Has never been convicted of:

2560 (i) A serious violent felony as such term is defined in Code Section 17-10-6.1;

2561 (ii) An offense for which he or she was or could have been required to register  
 2562 pursuant to Code Section 42-1-12; provided, however, that this paragraph shall not

2563 apply to any felony that became punishable as a misdemeanor on or after July 1,  
 2564 2006;  
 2565 (iii) A violation of paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (b) of Code Section 16-5-21;  
 2566 (iv) A violation of Code Section 16-11-106; and  
 2567 (v) A violation of Code Section 16-11-131;  
 2568 (B) Has completed at least six years of his or her sentence;  
 2569 (C) Has obtained a low-risk for recidivism rating as determined by a validated risk  
 2570 assessment instrument approved by the Department of Corrections;  
 2571 (D) Has been classified as a medium or less than medium security risk for institutional  
 2572 housing classification purposes by the Department of Corrections;  
 2573 (E) Has completed all criminogenic programming requirements as determined by a  
 2574 validated risk assessment instrument approved by the Department of Corrections;  
 2575 (F) In the 12 months preceding consideration, has not been found guilty of any serious  
 2576 disciplinary infractions; and  
 2577 (G) Has a high school diploma or general educational development (GED) diploma,  
 2578 unless he or she is unable to obtain such educational achievement due to a learning  
 2579 disability or illiteracy. If the inmate is incapable of obtaining such education, he or she  
 2580 shall have completed a job skills training program, a literacy program, an adult basic  
 2581 education program, or a faith based program."

2582 PART X

2583 PROFESSIONAL LICENSING CONSIDERATIONS

2584 SECTION 10-1.

2585 Chapter 1 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general  
 2586 provisions applicable to professions and businesses, is amended by revising Code  
 2587 Section 43-1-19, relating to grounds for refusing to grant or revoking licenses and  
 2588 probationary license, as follows:

2589 "43-1-19.

2590 (a) A professional licensing board shall have the authority to refuse to grant a license to  
 2591 an applicant therefor or to revoke the license of a person licensed by that board or to  
 2592 discipline a person licensed by that board, upon a finding by a majority of the entire board  
 2593 that the licensee or applicant has:

2594 (1) Failed to demonstrate the qualifications or standards for a license contained in this  
 2595 Code section, or under the laws, rules, or regulations under which licensure is sought or  
 2596 held; it shall be incumbent upon the applicant to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the  
 2597 board that he or she meets all the requirements for the issuance of a license, and, if the

2598 board is not satisfied as to the applicant's qualifications, it may deny a license without a  
 2599 prior hearing; provided, however, that the applicant shall be allowed to appear before the  
 2600 board if he or she so desires;

2601 (2) Knowingly made misleading, deceptive, untrue, or fraudulent representations in the  
 2602 practice of a business or profession licensed under this title or on any document  
 2603 connected therewith; ~~or~~ practiced fraud or deceit or intentionally made any false  
 2604 statement in obtaining a license to practice the licensed business or profession; or made  
 2605 a false statement or deceptive registration with the board;

2606 (3) Been convicted of any felony or of any crime involving moral turpitude in the courts  
 2607 of this state or any other state, territory, or country or in the courts of the United States;  
 2608 as used in this paragraph, ~~and~~ paragraph (4) of this subsection, and subsection (q) of this  
 2609 Code section, the term 'felony' shall include any offense which, if committed in this state,  
 2610 would be deemed a felony, without regard to its designation elsewhere; and, as used in  
 2611 this paragraph and subsection (q) of this Code section, the term 'conviction' shall include  
 2612 a finding or verdict of guilty or a plea of guilty, regardless of whether an appeal of the  
 2613 conviction has been sought;

2614 (4) Been arrested, charged, and sentenced for the commission of any felony, or any crime  
 2615 involving moral turpitude, where:

2616 (A) First offender treatment without adjudication of guilt pursuant to the charge was  
 2617 granted; or

2618 (B) An adjudication of guilt or sentence was otherwise withheld or not entered on the  
 2619 charge, except with respect to a plea of nolo contendere.

2620 The order entered pursuant to the provisions of Article 3 of Chapter 8 of Title 42, relating  
 2621 to probation of first offenders, or other first offender treatment shall be conclusive  
 2622 evidence of arrest and sentencing for such crime;

2623 (5) Had his or her license to practice a business or profession licensed under this title  
 2624 revoked, suspended, or annulled by any lawful licensing authority other than the board;  
 2625 ~~or~~ had other disciplinary action taken against him or her by any such lawful licensing  
 2626 authority other than the board; ~~or~~ was denied a license by any such lawful licensing  
 2627 authority other than the board, pursuant to disciplinary proceedings; or was refused the  
 2628 renewal of a license by any such lawful licensing authority other than the board, pursuant  
 2629 to disciplinary proceedings;

2630 (6) Engaged in any unprofessional, immoral, unethical, deceptive, or deleterious conduct  
 2631 or practice harmful to the public; ~~which conduct or practice~~ that materially affects the  
 2632 fitness of the licensee or applicant to practice a business or profession licensed under this  
 2633 title; or is of a nature likely to jeopardize the interest of the public; ~~which;~~ such conduct  
 2634 or practice need not have resulted in actual injury to any person or be directly related to

2635 the practice of the licensed business or profession but shows that the licensee or applicant  
 2636 has committed any act or omission which is indicative of bad moral character or  
 2637 untrustworthiness; ~~unprofessional conduct.~~ Such conduct or practice shall also include  
 2638 any departure from, or the failure to conform to, the minimal reasonable standards of  
 2639 acceptable and prevailing practice of the business or profession licensed under this title;

2640 (7) Knowingly performed any act which in any way aids, assists, procures, advises, or  
 2641 encourages any unlicensed person or any licensee whose license has been suspended or  
 2642 revoked by a professional licensing board to practice a business or profession licensed  
 2643 under this title or to practice outside the scope of any disciplinary limitation placed upon  
 2644 the licensee by the board;

2645 (8) Violated a statute, law, or any rule or regulation of this state, any other state, the  
 2646 professional licensing board regulating the business or profession licensed under this title,  
 2647 the United States, or any other lawful authority (~~without regard to whether the violation~~  
 2648 ~~is criminally punishable~~); ~~which~~ when such statute, law, or rule or regulation relates to  
 2649 or in part regulates the practice of a business or profession licensed under this title; and  
 2650 when the licensee or applicant knows or should know that such action ~~is violative of~~  
 2651 violates such statute, law, or rule; or violated a lawful order of the board previously  
 2652 entered by the board in a disciplinary hearing, consent decree, or license reinstatement;

2653 (9) Been adjudged mentally incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction within or  
 2654 outside this state; any such adjudication shall automatically suspend the license of any  
 2655 such person and shall prevent the reissuance or renewal of any license so suspended for  
 2656 as so long as the adjudication of incompetence is in effect;

2657 (10) Displayed an inability to practice a business or profession licensed under this title  
 2658 with reasonable skill and safety to the public or has become unable to practice the  
 2659 licensed business or profession with reasonable skill and safety to the public by reason  
 2660 of illness; or the use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics, chemicals, or any other type of material;

2661 (11) Failed to comply with an order for child support as defined by Code  
 2662 Section 19-11-9.3; it shall be incumbent upon the applicant or licensee to supply a notice  
 2663 of release to the board from the child support agency within the Department of Human  
 2664 Services indicating that the applicant or licensee has come into compliance with an order  
 2665 for child support so that a license may ~~issue~~ be issued or ~~be~~ granted if all other conditions  
 2666 for licensure are met; or

2667 (12) Failed to enter into satisfactory repayment status and is a borrower in default as  
 2668 defined by Code Section 20-3-295; it shall be incumbent upon the applicant or licensee  
 2669 to supply a notice of release to the board from the Georgia Higher Education Assistance  
 2670 Corporation indicating that the applicant or licensee has entered into satisfactory

2671 repayment status so that a license may be issued or granted if all other conditions for  
2672 licensure are met.

2673 (b) The provisions of Chapter 13 of Title 50, the 'Georgia Administrative Procedure Act,'  
2674 with respect to emergency action by a professional licensing board and summary  
2675 suspension of a license are adopted and incorporated by reference into this Code section.

2676 (c) For purposes of this Code section, a professional licensing board may obtain, through  
2677 subpoena by the division director, upon reasonable grounds, any and all records relating  
2678 to the mental or physical condition of a licensee or applicant, and such records shall be  
2679 admissible in any hearing before the board.

2680 (d) When a professional licensing board finds that any person is unqualified to be granted  
2681 a license or finds that any person should be disciplined pursuant to subsection (a) of this  
2682 Code section or the laws, rules, or regulations relating to the business or profession  
2683 licensed by the board, the board may take any one or more of the following actions:

2684 (1) Refuse to grant or renew a license to an applicant;

2685 (2) Administer a public or private reprimand, but a private reprimand shall not be  
2686 disclosed to any person except the licensee;

2687 (3) Suspend any license for a definite period or for an indefinite period in connection  
2688 with any condition which may be attached to the restoration of ~~said~~ such license;

2689 (4) Limit or restrict any license as the board deems necessary for the protection of the  
2690 public;

2691 (5) Revoke any license;

2692 (6) Condition the penalty upon, or withhold formal disposition pending, the applicant's  
2693 or licensee's submission to such care, counseling, or treatment as the board may direct;

2694 (7) Impose a fine not to exceed \$500.00 for each violation of a law, rule, or regulation  
2695 relating to the licensed business or profession; or

2696 (8) Impose on a licensee or applicant fees or charges in an amount necessary to  
2697 reimburse the professional licensing board for the administrative and legal costs incurred  
2698 by the board in conducting an investigative or disciplinary proceeding.

2699 (e) In addition to and in conjunction with the actions described in subsection (d) of this  
2700 Code section, a professional licensing board may make a finding adverse to the licensee  
2701 or applicant but withhold imposition of judgment and penalty; or it may impose the  
2702 judgment and penalty but suspend enforcement thereof and place the licensee on probation,  
2703 which ~~probation~~ may be vacated upon noncompliance with such reasonable terms as the  
2704 board may impose.

2705 (f) Initial judicial review of a final decision of a professional licensing board shall be had  
2706 solely in the superior court of the county of domicile of the board. The court may assess  
2707 reasonable and necessary attorney's fees and expenses of litigation in any such review if,

2708 upon the motion of any party or the court itself, it finds that an attorney or any party  
2709 aggrieved by an action of the board appealed such action of the board or any part thereof  
2710 when such appeal lacked substantial justification or when such appeal or any part thereof  
2711 was interposed for delay or harassment or if it finds that an attorney or aggrieved party  
2712 unnecessarily expanded the proceeding by other improper conduct. As used in this  
2713 subsection, the term 'lacked substantial justification' means substantially frivolous,  
2714 substantially groundless, or substantially vexatious.

2715 (g) In its discretion, a professional licensing board may reinstate a license which has been  
2716 revoked or issue a license which has been denied or refused, following such procedures as  
2717 the board may prescribe by rule; and, as a condition thereof, it may impose any disciplinary  
2718 or corrective method provided in this Code section or the laws relating to the licensed  
2719 business or profession.

2720 (h)(1) The division director is vested with the power and authority to make, or cause to  
2721 be made through employees or agents of the division, such investigations as he or she or  
2722 a respective board may deem necessary or proper for the enforcement of the provisions  
2723 of this Code section and the laws relating to businesses and professions licensed by that  
2724 board. Any person properly conducting an investigation on behalf of a professional  
2725 licensing board shall have access to and may examine any writing, document, or other  
2726 material relating to the fitness of any licensee or applicant. The division director or his  
2727 or her appointed representative may issue subpoenas to compel access to any writing,  
2728 document, or other material upon a determination that reasonable grounds exist for the  
2729 belief that a violation of this Code section or any other law relating to the practice of the  
2730 licensed business or profession subject to regulation or licensing by such board may have  
2731 taken place.

2732 (2) The results of all investigations initiated by the board shall be reported solely to the  
2733 board, and the records of such investigations shall be kept for the board by the division  
2734 director, with the board retaining the right to have access at any time to such records. No  
2735 part of any such records shall be released, except to the board, for any purpose other than  
2736 a hearing before the board, nor shall such records be subject to subpoena; provided,  
2737 however, that the board shall be authorized to release such records to another  
2738 enforcement agency or lawful licensing authority.

2739 (3) If a licensee is the subject of a board inquiry, all records relating to any person who  
2740 receives services rendered by that licensee in his or her capacity as licensee shall be  
2741 admissible at any hearing held to determine whether a violation of this chapter has taken  
2742 place, regardless of any statutory privilege; provided, however, that any documentary  
2743 evidence relating to a person who received those services shall be reviewed in camera and  
2744 shall not be disclosed to the public.

2745 (4) The board shall have the authority to exclude all persons during its deliberations on  
2746 disciplinary proceedings and to discuss any disciplinary matter in private with a licensee  
2747 or applicant and the legal counsel of that licensee or applicant.

2748 (5) When a member of the public files a complaint with a professional licensing board  
2749 or the division director against a licensee, within 30 days after the conclusion of the  
2750 investigation of such complaint, the professional licensing board or the division director  
2751 shall notify the complainant of the disposition of such complaint. Such notification shall  
2752 include whether any action was taken by the board with regard to such complaint and the  
2753 nature of such action. In addition, the division director and the board shall upon request  
2754 by the complainant advise the complainant as to the status of the complaint during the  
2755 period of time that such complaint is pending.

2756 (i) A person, firm, corporation, association, authority, or other entity shall be immune from  
2757 civil and criminal liability for reporting or investigating the acts or omissions of a licensee  
2758 or applicant which violate the provisions of subsection (a) of this Code section or any other  
2759 provision of law relating to a licensee's or applicant's fitness to practice a business or  
2760 profession licensed under this title or for initiating or conducting proceedings against such  
2761 licensee or applicant, if such report is made or action is taken in good faith, without fraud  
2762 or malice. Any person who testifies or who makes a recommendation to a professional  
2763 licensing board in the nature of peer review, in good faith, without fraud or malice, before  
2764 the board in any proceeding involving the provisions of subsection (a) of this Code section  
2765 or any other law relating to a licensee's or applicant's fitness to practice the business or  
2766 profession licensed by the board shall be immune from civil and criminal liability for so  
2767 testifying.

2768 (j) Neither the issuance of a private reprimand nor the denial of a license by reciprocity nor  
2769 the denial of a request for reinstatement of a revoked license nor the refusal to issue a  
2770 previously denied license shall be considered to be a contested case within the meaning of  
2771 Chapter 13 of Title 50, the 'Georgia Administrative Procedure Act'; notice and hearing  
2772 within the meaning of ~~said~~ such chapter shall not be required, but the applicant or licensee  
2773 shall be allowed to appear before the board if he or she so requests. A board may resolve  
2774 a pending action by the issuance of a letter of concern. Such letter shall not be considered  
2775 a disciplinary action or a contested case under Chapter 13 of Title 50 and shall not be  
2776 disclosed to any person except the licensee or applicant.

2777 (k) If any licensee or applicant after reasonable notice fails to appear at any hearing of the  
2778 professional licensing board for that licensee or applicant, the board may proceed to hear  
2779 the evidence against such licensee or applicant and take action as if such licensee or  
2780 applicant had been present. A notice of hearing, initial or recommended decision, or final  
2781 decision of the board in a disciplinary proceeding shall be served personally upon the

2782 licensee or applicant or served by certified mail or statutory overnight delivery, return  
 2783 receipt requested, to the last known address of record with the board. If such material is  
 2784 served by certified mail or statutory overnight delivery and is returned marked 'unclaimed'  
 2785 or 'refused' or is otherwise undeliverable and if the licensee or applicant cannot, after  
 2786 diligent effort, be located, the division director, or his or her designee, shall be deemed to  
 2787 be the agent for service for such licensee or applicant for purposes of this Code section, and  
 2788 service upon that director, or that director's designee, shall be deemed to be service upon  
 2789 the licensee or applicant.

2790 (l) The voluntary surrender of a license or the failure to renew a license by the end of an  
 2791 established penalty period shall have the same effect as a revocation of ~~said~~ such license,  
 2792 subject to reinstatement in the discretion of a board. A board may restore and reissue a  
 2793 license to practice under the law relating to that board and, as a condition thereof, may  
 2794 impose any disciplinary sanction provided by this Code section or the law relating to that  
 2795 board.

2796 (m) This Code section shall apply equally to all licensees or applicants whether  
 2797 individuals, partners, or members of any other incorporated or unincorporated associations,  
 2798 corporations, limited liability companies, or other associations of any kind whatsoever.

2799 (n) Regulation by a professional licensing board of a business or profession licensed under  
 2800 this title shall not exempt that business or profession from regulation pursuant to any other  
 2801 applicable law, including but not limited to Part 2 of Article 15 of Chapter 1 of Title 10,  
 2802 the 'Fair Business Practices Act of 1975.'

2803 (o) Subsections (a), (d), and (e) of this Code section shall be supplemental to and shall not  
 2804 operate to prohibit any professional licensing board from acting pursuant to those  
 2805 provisions of law which may now or hereafter authorize other disciplinary grounds and  
 2806 actions for that particular board. In cases where those other provisions of law so authorize  
 2807 other disciplinary grounds and actions but subsection (a), (d), or (e) of this Code section  
 2808 ~~limit~~ limits such grounds or actions, those other provisions shall apply so long as the  
 2809 requirements of subsection (q) of this Code section are met.

2810 (p)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code section or title, when an  
 2811 applicant submits his or her application for licensure or renewal, together with proof of  
 2812 completion of a drug court division ~~program~~, as set forth in Code Section 15-1-15, a  
 2813 mental health court division as set forth in Code Section 15-1-16, a veterans court  
 2814 division as set forth in Code Section 15-1-17, an operating under the influence court  
 2815 division as set forth in Code Section 15-1-19, or a family treatment court division as set  
 2816 forth in Code Section 15-11-70, a board shall issue the applicant a probationary license  
 2817 under the terms and conditions deemed appropriate by such board.



2818 (2) Paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not supersede a board's consideration of an  
 2819 applicant's other prior criminal history or arrests or convictions that occur subsequent to  
 2820 completion of a drug court division program identified in paragraph (1) of this subsection.  
 2821 (q)(1) Notwithstanding paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection (a) of this Code section or  
 2822 any other provision of law, no professional licensing board shall refuse to grant a license  
 2823 to an applicant therefor or shall revoke the license of a person licensed by that board due  
 2824 solely or in part to a conviction of any felony or due to any arrest, charge, and sentence  
 2825 for the commission of any felony unless such felony directly relates to the occupation for  
 2826 which the license is sought or held.

2827 (2) In determining if a felony directly relates to the occupation for which the license is  
 2828 sought or held, the professional licensing board shall consider:

2829 (A) The nature and seriousness of the felony and the relationship of the felony to the  
 2830 occupation for which the license is sought or held;

2831 (B) The age of the person at the time the felony was committed;

2832 (C) The length of time elapsed since the felony was committed;

2833 (D) All circumstances relative to the felony, including, but not limited to, mitigating  
 2834 circumstances or social conditions surrounding the commission of the felony; and

2835 (E) Evidence of rehabilitation and present fitness to perform the duties of the  
 2836 occupation for which the license is sought or held."

2837 PART XI

2838 FOOD STAMPS

2839 SECTION 11-1.

2840 Article 1 of Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
 2841 general provisions for public assistance, is amended by adding a new Code section to read  
 2842 as follows:

2843 "49-4-22.

2844 (a) An individual who was convicted under any state or federal law of an offense which  
 2845 has as an element the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance, as such  
 2846 term is defined in Code Section 16-13-21, and which is or would be classified as a felony  
 2847 under the laws of this state shall not be eligible for the federal Supplemental Nutrition  
 2848 Assistance Program while he or she is serving any term of imprisonment. If such  
 2849 individual was not sentenced to imprisonment, he or she shall be eligible for such program,  
 2850 provided that he or she remains compliant with the applicable general and special  
 2851 conditions of probation imposed. If such individual is sentenced to a term of  
 2852 imprisonment, after release from confinement, he or she shall be eligible for such program.

2853 provided that he or she remains compliant with the applicable general and special  
 2854 conditions of probation or parole imposed. If such individual violates the terms of  
 2855 probation as determined by court order or violates the terms of parole as determined by an  
 2856 order of the State Board of Pardons and Paroles, he or she shall lose eligibility for such  
 2857 program. If such individual successfully completes the original sentence imposed, he or  
 2858 she shall remain eligible for such program.

2859 (b) Any individual eligible for aid pursuant to this Code section shall be required to meet  
 2860 all other requirements for eligibility for such program."

2861 **PART XII**  
 2862 **YOUTHFUL PROBATION SUPERVISION**  
 2863 **SECTION 12-1.**

2864 Code Section 49-4A-2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the creation of  
 2865 the Board of Juvenile Justice, is amended in subsection (b) by deleting "and" at the end of  
 2866 paragraph (4), by replacing the period with "; and" at the end of paragraph (5), and by adding  
 2867 a new paragraph to read as follows:

2868 "(6) Adopt rules and regulations governing the transfer of children who are at least 17  
 2869 years of age and are released from restrictive custody due to an adjudication for a Class  
 2870 A designated felony act or Class B designated felony act, as such terms are defined in  
 2871 Code Section 15-11-2, to the Department of Community Supervision to ensure balanced  
 2872 attention to the protection of the community, the imposition of accountability, and the  
 2873 development of competencies to enable each child to become a responsible and  
 2874 productive member of the community, taking into consideration a child's level of  
 2875 participation in the department's educational, vocational, and other services prior to such  
 2876 release."

2877 **PART XIII**  
 2878 **PROVIDING FOR MISCELLANEOUS**  
 2879 **CROSS-REFERENCES IN THE CODE**  
 2880 **SECTION 13-1.**

2881 Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to crimes and offenses, is  
 2882 amended by revising subparagraph (b)(1)(B) of Code Section 16-8-14, relating to shoplifting,  
 2883 as follows:

2884 "(B) Upon conviction of a third offense for shoplifting, ~~where~~ when the first two  
 2885 offenses are either felonies or misdemeanors, or a combination of a felony and a

2886 misdemeanor, as defined by this Code section, in addition to or in lieu of any fine  
 2887 which might be imposed, the defendant shall be punished by imprisonment for not less  
 2888 than 30 days or confinement in a 'special alternative incarceration-probation boot camp,'  
 2889 probation detention center, ~~diversion center~~, or other community correctional facility  
 2890 of the Department of Corrections for a period of 120 days or shall be sentenced to  
 2891 monitored house arrest for a period of 120 days and, in addition to ~~either~~ such types of  
 2892 confinement, may be required to undergo psychological evaluation and treatment to be  
 2893 paid for by the defendant; and such sentence of imprisonment or confinement shall not  
 2894 be suspended, probated, deferred, or withheld; and"

#### 2895 **SECTION 13-2.**

2896 Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (2) of subsection (c) of Code Section  
 2897 16-8-14.1, relating to refund fraud, as follows:

2898 "(2) Upon conviction of a third offense for a violation of any provision of this Code  
 2899 section, the defendant shall be guilty of a felony and, in addition to or in lieu of any fine  
 2900 which might be imposed, the defendant shall be punished by imprisonment for not less  
 2901 than 30 days or confinement in a 'special alternative incarceration-probation boot camp,'  
 2902 probation detention center, ~~diversion center~~, or other community correctional facility of  
 2903 the Department of Corrections for a period of 120 days or shall be sentenced to monitored  
 2904 house arrest for a period of 120 days and, in addition to ~~either~~ such types of confinement,  
 2905 may be required to undergo psychological evaluation and treatment to be paid for by the  
 2906 defendant; and such sentence of imprisonment or confinement shall not be suspended,  
 2907 probated, deferred, or withheld."

#### 2908 **SECTION 13-3.**

2909 Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (2) of subsection (d) of Code Section  
 2910 16-11-135, relating to public or private employer's parking lots and rights of action, as  
 2911 follows:

2912 "(2) To any penal institution, correctional institution, detention facility, ~~diversion center~~,  
 2913 jail, or similar place of confinement or confinement alternative;"

#### 2914 **SECTION 13-4.**

2915 Title 17 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to criminal procedure, is  
 2916 amended by revising subparagraph (a)(3)(A) of Code Section 17-10-1, relating to fixing of  
 2917 sentence, as follows:

2918 "(3)(A) Any part of a sentence of probation revoked for a violation other than a  
 2919 subsequent commission of any felony, a violation of a special condition, or a

2920 misdemeanor offense involving physical violence resulting in bodily injury to an  
 2921 innocent victim which in the opinion of the trial court constitutes a danger to the  
 2922 community or a serious infraction occurring while the defendant is assigned to an  
 2923 alternative probation confinement facility shall be served in a probation detention  
 2924 center, probation boot camp, ~~diversion center~~, weekend lock up, or confinement in a  
 2925 local jail or detention facility, or other community correctional alternatives available  
 2926 to the court or provided by the Department of Corrections."

2927 **SECTION 13-5.**

2928 Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Code Section  
 2929 17-10-3, relating to punishment for misdemeanors generally, as follows:

2930 "(2) By confinement under the jurisdiction of the Board of Corrections in a state  
 2931 probation detention center ~~or diversion center~~ pursuant to Code Sections  
 2932 Section 42-8-35.4 and 42-8-35.5, for a determinate term of months which shall not  
 2933 exceed a total term of 12 months; or"

2934 **PART XIV**

2935 **EFFECTIVE DATES AND REPEALER**

2936 **SECTION 14-1.**

2937 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, this Act shall become effective on  
 2938 July 1, 2016.

2939 (b) Part IX of this Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its  
 2940 becoming law without such approval. The provisions of Part IX of this Act shall be given  
 2941 retroactive effect to those sentences imposed before the effective date of Part IX of this Act.

2942 **SECTION 14-2.**

2943 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.