

Senate Bill 66

By: Senators Hecht of the 34<sup>th</sup>, Starr of the 44<sup>th</sup>, Scott of the 36<sup>th</sup>, Walker of the 22<sup>nd</sup> and Thomas of the 2<sup>nd</sup>

**AS PASSED**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 42 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to penal institutions,  
2 so as to change the provisions relating to registration requirements applicable to certain sex  
3 offenders; to change the definitions of certain terms; to provide procedures for registration;  
4 to provide for the registration of certain sex offenders convicted in tribal court; to change  
5 certain provisions relating to the requirement that sex offenders register with sheriffs; to  
6 change certain requirements relating to registration; to require additional information with  
7 respect to such registration; to change certain provisions relating to duties of the Georgia  
8 Crime Information Center; to change the provisions relating to what effect the discharge of  
9 a defendant without adjudication of guilt under laws applicable to first offenders has on a  
10 person's civil rights or liberties; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

12 Title 42 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to penal institutions, is amended  
13 by striking in its entirety Code Section 42-1-12, relating to required registration of certain  
14 sex offenders, and inserting in lieu thereof a new Code Section 42-1-12 to read as follows:

15 "42-1-12.

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

17 (1) 'Appropriate state official' means:

18 (A) With respect to an offender who is sentenced to probation without any sentence of  
19 incarceration in the state prison system or who is sentenced pursuant to Article 3 of  
20 Chapter 8 of this title, relating to first offenders, the Division of Probation of the  
21 Department of Corrections;

22 (B) With respect to an offender who is sentenced to a period of incarceration in a  
23 prison under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections and who is subsequently  
24 released from prison or placed on probation, the commissioner of corrections or his or  
25 her designee; and  
26

1 (C) With respect to an offender who is placed on parole, the chairperson of the State  
2 Board of Pardons and Paroles or his or her designee.

3 (2) 'Board' means the Sexual Offender Registration Review Board.

4 (3) 'Conviction' includes a final judgment of conviction entered upon a verdict or finding  
5 of guilty of a crime, ~~or upon a plea of guilty, or a plea of nolo contendere.~~ Unless  
6 otherwise required by federal law, a defendant who is discharged without adjudication  
7 of guilt and who is not considered to have a criminal conviction pursuant to Article 3 of  
8 Chapter 8 of this title, relating to first offenders, shall not be subject to the registration  
9 requirements of this Code section.

10 (4)(A) 'Criminal offense against a victim who is a minor' with respect to convictions  
11 occurring on or before June 30, 2001, means any criminal offense under Title 16 or any  
12 offense under federal law or the laws of another state or territory of the United States  
13 which consists of:

- 14 (i) Kidnapping of a minor, except by a parent;
- 15 (ii) False imprisonment of a minor, except by a parent;
- 16 (iii) Criminal sexual conduct toward a minor;
- 17 (iv) Solicitation of a minor to engage in sexual conduct;
- 18 (v) Use of a minor in a sexual performance;
- 19 (vi) Solicitation of a minor to practice prostitution; or
- 20 (vii) Any conviction resulting from an underlying sexual offense against a victim  
21 who is a minor.

22 (B) 'Criminal offense against a victim who is a minor' with respect to convictions  
23 occurring after June 30, 2001, means any criminal offense under Title 16 or any offense  
24 under federal law or the laws of another state or territory of the United States which  
25 consists of:

- 26 (i) Kidnapping of a minor, except by a parent;
- 27 (ii) False imprisonment of a minor, except by a parent;
- 28 (iii) Criminal sexual conduct toward a minor;
- 29 (iv) Solicitation of a minor to engage in sexual conduct;
- 30 (v) Use of a minor in a sexual performance;
- 31 (vi) Solicitation of a minor to practice prostitution;
- 32 (vii) Use of a minor to engage in any sexually explicit conduct to produce any visual  
33 medium depicting such conduct;
- 34 (viii) Creating, publishing, selling, or distributing any material depicting a minor  
35 engaged in sexually explicit conduct;
- 36 (ix) Transmitting, making, selling, buying, or disseminating by means of a computer  
37 any descriptive or identifying information regarding a child for the purpose of

1 offering or soliciting sexual conduct of or with a child or the visual depicting of such  
 2 conduct; or

3 (x) Any conduct which, by its nature, is a sexual offense against a minor.

4 ~~(B)~~(C) For purposes of this paragraph, conduct which is criminal only because of the  
 5 age of the victim shall not be considered a criminal offense if the perpetrator is 18 years  
 6 of age or younger.

7 (5) 'Mental abnormality' means a congenital or acquired condition of a person that affects  
 8 the emotional or volitional capacity of the person in a manner that predisposes that person  
 9 to the commission of criminal sexual acts to a degree that makes the person a menace to  
 10 the health and safety of other persons.

11 (6) 'Predatory' means an act directed at a stranger or a person with whom a relationship  
 12 has been established or promoted for the primary purpose of victimization.

13 (7) 'Sexually violent offense' means a conviction for violation of Code Section 16-6-1,  
 14 relating to rape; Code Section 16-6-2, relating to aggravated sodomy; Code Section  
 15 16-6-4, relating to aggravated child molestation; or Code Section 16-6-22.2, relating to  
 16 aggravated sexual battery; or an offense that has as its element engaging in physical  
 17 contact with another person with intent to commit such an offense; or a conviction in a  
 18 federal court, military court, tribal court, or court of another state or territory for any  
 19 offense which under the laws of this state would be classified as a violation of a Code  
 20 section listed in this paragraph.

21 (8) 'Sexually violent predator' means a person who has been convicted on or after July  
 22 1, 1996, of a sexually violent offense and who suffers from a mental abnormality or  
 23 personality disorder or attitude that places the person at risk of perpetrating any future  
 24 predatory sexually violent offenses.

25 (b)(1)(A)(i) On and after July 1, 1996, a person who is convicted of a criminal  
 26 offense against a victim who is a minor or who is convicted of a sexually violent  
 27 offense shall register within ten days after his or her release from prison or placement  
 28 on parole, supervised release, or probation his or her name and current address; place  
 29 of employment, if any; the crime of which convicted; school address, if any; and the  
 30 date released from prison or placed on parole, supervised release, or probation with  
 31 the appropriate sheriff's office as specified in subsection (c) of this Code section in  
 32 the county where such person will reside for the time period specified in subsection  
 33 (g) of this Code section.

34 (ii) A person who has previously been convicted of a criminal offense against a  
 35 victim who is a minor or who has previously been convicted of a sexually violent  
 36 offense and who is released from prison or placed on parole, supervised release, or  
 37 probation on or after July 1, 1996, shall register within ten days after such release or

1 placement his or her name and current address; place of employment, if any; the  
 2 crime of which convicted; school address, if any; and the date released from prison  
 3 or placed on parole, supervised release, or probation with the appropriate sheriff's  
 4 office as specified in subsection (c) of this Code section in the county where such  
 5 person will reside for the time period specified in subsection (g) of this Code section.

6 (iii) On and after July 1, 1999, any resident of Georgia who is convicted under the  
 7 laws of another state or territory, under the laws of the United States, ~~or~~ under the  
 8 Uniform Code of Military Justice, or in a tribal court of a sexually violent offense or  
 9 a criminal offense against a victim who is a minor shall register within ten days after  
 10 his or her release from prison or placement on parole, supervised release, or  
 11 probation. The information such an offender is required to register shall include his  
 12 or her name and current address; place of employment, if any; the crime of which  
 13 convicted; school address, if any; and the date released from prison or placed on  
 14 parole, supervised release, or probation. Such an offender shall register with the  
 15 appropriate sheriff's office as specified in subsection (c) of this Code section in the  
 16 county where such person will reside for the time period specified in subsection (g)  
 17 of this Code section.

18 (B) A person who is a sexually violent predator shall register within ten days after his  
 19 or her release from prison or placement on parole, supervised release, or probation the  
 20 information required under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph with the appropriate  
 21 sheriff's office as specified in subsection (c) of this Code section in the county where  
 22 such person will reside. The sheriff may prepare a list of such sexual predators  
 23 providing each person's name, address, and photograph. The sheriff shall update the  
 24 list periodically and may post such list in a prominent and visible location in the  
 25 sheriff's office and each city hall or primary administration building of every  
 26 incorporated municipality within the county. Such list shall also be made available  
 27 upon request to any public or private elementary, secondary, or postsecondary school  
 28 or educational institution located in the county.

29 (2)(A) Upon a determination that an offender is guilty of a sexually violent offense, the  
 30 court may request a report from the Sexual Offender Registration Review Board as to  
 31 the likelihood that the offender suffers from a mental abnormality or personality  
 32 disorder that would make the person likely to engage in a predatory sexually violent  
 33 offense. The report shall be requested as a matter of course for any offender with a  
 34 history of sexually violent offenses. The court shall provide the Sexual Offender  
 35 Registration Review Board with any information available to assist the board in  
 36 rendering an opinion. The board shall have 60 days from receipt of the court's request  
 37 to respond with its report. After receiving a recommendation from the Sexual Offender

1 Registration Review Board that a convicted sexually violent offender be classified as  
 2 a sexually violent predator, the sentencing court shall so inform the offender and shall  
 3 set a date to conduct a hearing affording the offender the opportunity to present  
 4 testimony or evidence relevant to the recommended classification. After the hearing and  
 5 within 60 days of receiving the report, the court shall issue a ruling as to whether or not  
 6 the offender shall be classified as a sexually violent predator. If the court determines  
 7 the offender to be a sexually violent predator, such fact shall be communicated in  
 8 writing to the appropriate state official and to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

9 (B) The Sexual Offender Registration Review Board shall be composed of three  
 10 professionals licensed under Title 43 and knowledgeable in the field of the behavior and  
 11 treatment of sexual offenders; at least one representative from a victims' rights  
 12 advocacy group or agency and at least one representative from a law enforcement  
 13 agency who is certified as a peace officer under Title 35. The members of such board  
 14 shall be appointed by the commissioner of human resources for terms of four years.  
 15 Members of the board shall take office on the first day of September immediately  
 16 following the expired term of that office and shall serve for a term of four years and  
 17 until the appointment of their respective successors. No member shall serve on the  
 18 board more than two consecutive terms. Vacancies occurring on the board, other than  
 19 those caused by expiration of a term of office, shall be filled in the same manner as the  
 20 original appointment to the position vacated for the remainder of the unexpired term  
 21 and until a successor is appointed. Members shall be entitled to an expense allowance  
 22 and travel cost reimbursement the same as members of certain other boards and  
 23 commissions as provided in Code Section 45-7-21.

24 (C) The Sexual Offender Review Board shall be attached to the Department of Human  
 25 Resources for administrative purposes and provided there is adequate funding provided  
 26 shall:

- 27 (i) Exercise its quasi-judicial, rule-making, or policy-making functions independently
- 28 of the department and without approval or control of the department;
- 29 (ii) Prepare its budget, if any, and submit its budgetary requests, if any, through the
- 30 department; and
- 31 (iii) Hire its own personnel if authorized by the Constitution of this state or by statute
- 32 or if the General Assembly provides or authorizes the expenditure of funds therefor.

33 (3)(A) If a person who is required to register under this Code section is released from  
 34 prison or placed on parole, supervised release, or probation, the appropriate state  
 35 official shall:

- 36 (i) Inform the person of the duty to register and obtain the information required under
- 37 subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of this subsection for such registration;

1 (ii) Inform the person that, if the person changes residence address, employment  
 2 address, or school address, the person shall give the new address to the sheriff or  
 3 sheriffs with whom the person last registered, not later than ten days after the change  
 4 of address. Following such notification, the sheriff's office shall notify immediately  
 5 the Georgia Bureau of Investigation through the Criminal Justice Information System  
 6 (CJIS) of each change of ~~residence~~ address;

7 (iii) Inform the person that the person must register in any state where the person is  
 8 employed or carries on a vocation or is a student;

9 (iv) Inform the person that, if the person changes residence to another state, the  
 10 person shall register the new address with the sheriff or sheriffs with whom the person  
 11 last registered, and that the person shall also register with a designated law  
 12 enforcement agency in the new state not later than ten days after establishing  
 13 residence in the new state;

14 (v) Obtain fingerprints and a photograph of the person if such fingerprints and  
 15 photograph have not already been obtained in connection with the offense that  
 16 triggered the initial registration; and

17 (vi) Require the person to read and sign a form stating that the duty of the person to  
 18 register under this Code section has been explained. A copy of this form and any  
 19 other registration information furnished by the Department of Corrections shall be  
 20 forwarded to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

21 (B) In addition to the requirements of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, for a person  
 22 required to register under subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) of this subsection, the  
 23 appropriate state official shall obtain the name of the person; descriptive physical and  
 24 behavioral information to assist law enforcement personnel in identifying the person;  
 25 known current or proposed residence addresses of the person; place of employment, if  
 26 any; offense history of the person; and documentation of any treatment received for any  
 27 mental abnormality or personality disorder of the person; provided, however, that the  
 28 appropriate state official shall not be required to obtain any information already on the  
 29 criminal justice information system of the Georgia Crime Information Center.

30 (C) The Georgia Crime Information Center shall create criminal justice information  
 31 system network transaction screens by which appropriate state officials shall enter  
 32 original data required by this Code section including residence address, school address,  
 33 and employment address. Screens shall also be created for sheriffs' offices for the entry  
 34 of record confirmation data; employment; changes of residence, school, or and  
 35 employment; or other pertinent data and to assist in offender identification.

36 (D) Any person changing residence from another state or territory of the United States  
 37 to Georgia who is required to register under federal law or the laws of another state, or

1 territory, or tribal authority or who has been convicted of an offense in another state,  
 2 ~~or territory, or tribal authority~~ which would require registration under this Code section  
 3 if committed in this state shall comply with the registration requirements of this Code  
 4 section. Such person shall register the new address and employment information with  
 5 the appropriate sheriff of the county as specified in subsection (c) of this Code section  
 6 ~~of new residence~~ not later than ten days after the date of establishing residency in this  
 7 state. Upon the person's registration with the sheriff of the county of new residence,  
 8 the sheriff or his or her designee shall forward the registration information to the  
 9 Georgia Bureau of Investigation. The sheriff or his or her designee shall obtain any  
 10 needed information concerning the registrant, including fingerprints and a photograph  
 11 of the person if such fingerprints and photograph have not previously been obtained  
 12 within the State of Georgia. In addition, the sheriff or his or her designee shall inform  
 13 the person of the duty to report any change of address as otherwise required in this  
 14 Code section. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation shall forward such information in  
 15 the manner described in subsection (c) of this Code section.

16 (E) The following persons are also required to register:

- 17 (i) Any nonresident who enters this state for the purpose of employment for a period  
 18 exceeding 14 consecutive days or for an aggregate period of time exceeding 30 days  
 19 during any calendar year and who is required to register under federal law, military  
 20 law, tribal law, or the laws of another state or territory, which, based on an act, would  
 21 require registration under this Code section; or  
 22 (ii) Any nonresident who enters this state for the purpose of attending school as a  
 23 full-time or part-time student and who is required to register under federal law,  
 24 military law, tribal law, or the laws of another state or territory, which, based on an  
 25 act, would require registration under this Code section.

26 Any person required to register by this subparagraph shall not later than ten days after  
 27 the person enters the state register with the sheriff of the county of his or her temporary  
 28 address, with the sheriff of the county of his or her employment, and with the sheriff  
 29 of the county in which the person is attending school. The information registered shall  
 30 include the person's temporary address, permanent address in the person's state of  
 31 residence, employment address, or school address. Upon the person's registration, the  
 32 sheriff or the sheriff's designee shall forward the registration information to the Georgia  
 33 Bureau of Investigation. The sheriff or the sheriff's designee shall obtain the  
 34 fingerprints and photograph of the person, if the person's fingerprints and photograph  
 35 have not previously been obtained in Georgia. The sheriff or the sheriff's designee  
 36 shall inform the person of his or her duty to report any change in temporary residence,  
 37 permanent residence, employment address, or school address.

1 (c) The appropriate state official shall, within three days after receipt of information  
2 described in paragraph (3) of subsection (b) of this Code section, forward such information  
3 to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. Once the data is entered into the criminal justice  
4 information system by the appropriate state official or sheriff, the Georgia Crime  
5 Information Center, where appropriate, shall immediately notify the sheriff of the person's  
6 county of residence, either permanent or temporary, the sheriff of the county of  
7 employment, and the sheriff of the county where the person attends school. The Georgia  
8 Bureau of Investigation shall also immediately transmit the conviction data and fingerprints  
9 to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It shall be the duty of the sheriff of each county  
10 within this state to maintain a register of the names and addresses of all registered offenders  
11 within the sheriff's jurisdiction whose names have been provided by the Georgia Bureau  
12 of Investigation to the sheriff under this Code section. The Georgia Bureau of  
13 Investigation shall establish operating policies and procedures concerning record  
14 ownership, quality, verification, modification, and cancellation and shall perform mail out  
15 and verification duties on a quarterly basis. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation shall send  
16 each month criminal justice information system network messages to sheriffs listing  
17 offenders due for verification. The bureau shall also create a photo image file from original  
18 entries and provide such entries to sheriffs to assist in offender identification and  
19 verification.

20 (d)(1) For a person required to register under subparagraph (b)(1)(A) of this Code  
21 section, on each anniversary of the person's initial registration date during the period in  
22 which the person is required to register under this Code section, the following applies:

23 (A) The Georgia Bureau of Investigation shall mail a nonforwardable verification form  
24 to the last reported address of the person;

25 (B) The person shall be required as a condition of parole or probation to respond  
26 directly to the sheriff within ten days after receipt of the form;

27 (C) The verification form stating that the person still resides at the address last reported  
28 to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation shall be signed by the person and retained by the  
29 sheriff; and

30 (D) If the person fails to respond directly to the sheriff within ten days after receipt of  
31 the form, the person shall be in violation of this Code section, ~~unless the person proves~~  
32 ~~that he or she has not changed his or her residence address.~~

33 (2) The provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be applied to a person  
34 required to register under subparagraph (b)(1)(B) of this Code section, except that such  
35 person must verify the registration every 90 days after the date of the initial release on  
36 probation by the court or the initial release by the Department of Corrections or  
37 commencement of parole.

1 (e) A change of address by a person required to register under this Code section reported  
2 to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation shall be immediately reported to the sheriff of the  
3 county where the person resides as set forth in subparagraph (b)(3)(E) of this Code section.  
4 The Georgia Bureau of Investigation shall, if the person changes residence to another state,  
5 notify the law enforcement agency with which the person must register in the new state.

6 (f) A person who has been convicted of an offense which requires registration under this  
7 Code section shall register the new address with a designated law enforcement agency in  
8 another state to which the person moves not later than ten days after such person  
9 establishes residence in the new state if the new state has a registration requirement.

10 (g) A person required to register under subparagraph (b)(1)(A) of this Code section shall  
11 continue to comply with this Code section, except during ensuing periods of incarceration,  
12 until:

13 (1) Ten years have elapsed since the person was released from prison or placed on  
14 parole, supervised release, or probation; or

15 (2) For the life of that person if that person:

16 (A) Has one or more prior convictions for an offense described in subparagraph  
17 (a)(4)(A) and paragraph (7) of subsection (a) of this Code section;

18 (B) Has been convicted of an aggravated offense described in paragraph (7) of  
19 subsection (a) of this Code section; or

20 (C) Has been determined to be a sexually violent predator pursuant to subparagraph  
21 (b)(2)(A) of this Code section.

22 (h) Any person who is required to register under this Code section and who fails to comply  
23 with the requirements of this Code section or who provides false information shall be guilty  
24 of a misdemeanor; provided, however, that upon the conviction of the second or subsequent  
25 offense under this subsection, the defendant shall be guilty of a felony and shall be  
26 punished by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than three years or by a fine in  
27 an amount of up to \$100,000.00, or both.

28 (i) The information collected under the state registration program shall be treated as  
29 private data except that:

30 (1) Such information may be disclosed to law enforcement agencies for law enforcement  
31 purposes;

32 (2) Such information may be disclosed to government agencies conducting confidential  
33 background checks;

34 (3) The Georgia Bureau of Investigation or any sheriff maintaining records required  
35 under this Code section shall release relevant information collected under this Code  
36 section that is necessary to protect the public concerning those persons required to  
37 register under this Code section, except that the identity of a victim of an offense that

1 requires registration under this Code section shall not be released. In addition to any  
 2 other notice that may be necessary to protect the public, nothing in this Code section shall  
 3 prevent any sheriff from posting this information in any public building in addition to  
 4 those locations enumerated in subparagraph (b)(1)(B) of this Code section; and

5 (4) It shall be the responsibility of the sheriff maintaining records required under this  
 6 Code section to enforce the criminal provisions of this Code section. The sheriff may  
 7 request the assistance of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation upon his or her discretion.

8 (j) Law enforcement agencies, employees of law enforcement agencies, members of the  
 9 Sexual Offender Registration Review Board, and state officials shall be immune from  
 10 liability for good faith conduct under this Code section.

11 (k) The provisions of this Code section shall be in addition to and not in lieu of the  
 12 provisions of Code Section 42-9-44.1, relating to conditions for parole of sexual offenders.

13 (l) The Board of Public Safety is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations necessary  
 14 for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and the Georgia Crime Information Center to  
 15 implement and carry out the provisions of this Code section."

## 16 SECTION 2.

17 Said title is further amended by striking in its entirety subsection (a) of Code Section  
 18 42-8-62, relating to discharge of defendant without adjudication of guilt with respect to  
 19 certain first offenders, and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (a) to read as follows:

20 "(a) Upon fulfillment of the terms of probation, upon release by the court prior to the  
 21 termination of the period thereof, or upon release from confinement, the defendant shall  
 22 be discharged without court adjudication of guilt. Except for the registration requirements  
 23 under the state sexual offender registry, the The discharge shall completely exonerate the  
 24 defendant of any criminal purpose and shall not affect any of his or her civil rights or  
 25 liberties; and the defendant shall not be considered to have a criminal conviction. It shall  
 26 be the duty of the clerk of court to enter on the criminal docket and all other records of the  
 27 court pertaining thereto the following:

28 'Discharge filed completely exonerates the defendant of any criminal purpose and shall  
 29 not affect any of his or her civil rights or liberties, except for registration requirements  
 30 under the state sexual offender registry; and the defendant shall not be considered to have  
 31 a criminal conviction. O.C.G.A. 42-8-62.'

32 Such entry shall be written or stamped in red ink, dated, and signed by the person making  
 33 such entry or, if the docket or record is maintained using computer print-outs, microfilm,  
 34 or similar means, such entry shall be underscored, boldface, or made in a similar  
 35 conspicuous manner and shall be dated and include the name of the person making such  
 36 entry. The criminal file, docket books, criminal minutes and final record, and all other

1 records of the court relating to the offense of a defendant who has been discharged without  
2 court adjudication of guilt pursuant to this subsection shall not be altered as a result of that  
3 discharge, except for the entry of discharge thereon required by this subsection, nor shall  
4 the contents thereof be expunged or destroyed as a result of that discharge."

5 **SECTION 3.**

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