

House Bill 37

By: Representatives Ehrhart of the 28<sup>th</sup>, Westmoreland of the 86<sup>th</sup>, Keen of the 146<sup>th</sup>, Mills of the 67<sup>th</sup>, Post 2 and Porter of the 119<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 1 of Article 6 of Chapter 5 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to general provisions for programs and protection for children, so as to  
3 prohibit certain governmental discrimination against youth organizations; to provide a short  
4 title; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

7 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Defense of Scouting Act."

8 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

9 Part 1 of Article 6 of Chapter 5 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
10 relating to general provisions for programs and protection for children, is amended by adding  
11 a new Code Section 49-5-136 to read as follows:

12 "49-5-136.

13 (a) As used in this Code section, 'youth organization' means any private nonprofit  
14 corporation engaged in expressive association, the general mission of which is to instill in  
15 young people values including patriotism, adherence to ethical and moral principles,  
16 physical health, and mental development through a program of instruction, engagement in  
17 outdoor activities, and community service.

18 (b) Neither the state nor any political subdivision thereof nor any department, agency,  
19 authority, or commission of either of them shall deny any youth organization or local  
20 chapter or affiliate thereof access to or use of public facilities or eligibility for charitable  
21 grants or contributions otherwise authorized by law based upon such organization's  
22 requiring, as a condition of membership or employment, adherence to lawful standards of  
23 ethics and morals expressed by the organization."

- 1 **SECTION 3.**
- 2 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.