

House Bill 820

By: Representatives Dukes of the 136<sup>th</sup>, Skipper of the 116<sup>th</sup>, Greene of the 134<sup>th</sup>, Hanner of the 133<sup>rd</sup>, Hudson of the 95<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 42-4-31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 required safety and security measures in jails, so as to provide that certain county jails shall  
3 be authorized to utilize a full-time dispatcher as a full-time jailer under certain conditions;  
4 to provide for related matters; 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 Code Section 42-4-31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to required safety  
8 and security measures in jails, is amended by striking subsection (a) in its entirety and  
9 inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (a) to read as follows:

10 "(a) It shall be unlawful for any person having charge of or responsibility for any detention  
11 facility to incarcerate any person in the detention facility unless a full-time jailer is on duty  
12 at the detention facility at all times while a person is incarcerated therein. For purposes of  
13 this Code section, a full-time dispatcher may also serve simultaneously as a full-time jailer  
14 in the case of:

15 (1) A municipal or county detention facility with 12 or fewer inmates incarcerated  
16 therein if such dispatcher either:

17 (A) Is equipped with mobile telephone and radio equipment which will allow such  
18 dispatcher to perform the duties of a dispatcher and the duties of a full-time jailer at the  
19 same time; or

20 (B) Is provided with temporary assistance or relief from the duties of a dispatcher  
21 while performing the duties of a jailer; or

22 (2) A ~~municipal~~ detention facility of a municipal corporation or county having a  
23 population of 6,000 or less if such dispatcher is certified both as a jailer and a dispatcher  
24 by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council."

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- 2 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.