

House Bill 918

By: Representatives Dooley of the 33rd, Post 3, Fludd of the 48th, Post 4, Rogers of the 20th,
Buckner of the 109th, Hill of the 16th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 17-6-12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 discretion of the court to release a person charged with a crime on his or her own
3 recognizance and the effect of the person charged to appear for trial, so as to remove such
4 discretion for a person who has failed to appear for trial on two or more occasions; to repeal
5 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 17-6-12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the discretion
9 of the court to release a person charged with a crime on his or her own recognizance and the
10 effect of the person charged to appear for trial, is amended by striking in its entirety
11 subsection (a) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

12 "(a) In addition to other laws regarding the release of an accused person, the judge of any
13 court having jurisdiction over a person charged with committing an offense against the
14 criminal laws of this state shall have authority, in his or her sound discretion and in
15 appropriate cases, to authorize the release of the person upon his or her own recognizance
16 only; provided, however, that a person who has failed to appear for trial on two or more
17 occasions after having been released shall be deemed to have demonstrated a pattern of
18 failing to appear and shall be required to post a cash, property, or surety bail bond."

19 **SECTION 2.**

20 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.