

House Bill 424 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Porter of the 119<sup>th</sup>, McBee of the 74<sup>th</sup>, Gardner of the 42<sup>nd</sup>, Post 3, Howell of the 92<sup>nd</sup> and Borders of the 142<sup>nd</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 7 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 salaries and fees of public officers and employees, so as to provide that deductions are  
3 authorized for the purpose of contributing to savings trust accounts established under the  
4 Georgia Higher Education Savings Plan; to provide procedures for authorizing and ending  
5 such a deduction; to provide for immunity; to amend Code Section 45-18-32 of the Official  
6 Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to administration of plans, so as to include critical  
7 access hospital authorities and federally qualified health centers; to provide for related  
8 matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

11 Chapter 7 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to salaries and fees  
12 of public officers and employees, is amended in Article 3, relating to salary deductions, by  
13 inserting a new Code section to be designated Code Section 45-7-57 to read as follows:

14 "45-7-57.

15 (a) Any department, agency, authority, commission, or other instrumentality of the state  
16 is authorized to deduct designated amounts from the wages or salaries of its employees and  
17 remit such moneys to one or more savings trust accounts established under Article 11 of  
18 Chapter 3 of Title 20.

19 (b) No payroll deduction shall be made under this Code section without the employee's  
20 written and voluntary consent designating the exact amount to be deducted.

21 (c) Any employee who has authorized a deduction under this Code section is authorized  
22 to end such salary deduction upon written notice to the employer.

23 (d) The fiscal authorities or other employees of the various departments, agencies,  
24 authorities, commissions, or other instrumentalities of this state shall incur no liability for  
25 errors or omissions made in the administration of payroll deductions authorized under this  
26 Code section."

**SECTION 1A.**

Code Section 45-18-32 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to administration of plans, is amended by adding after the third sentence the following:

"Public employees of any critical access hospital authority or federally qualified health center may, with the approval of the State Personnel Board and the approval of such hospital authority or health center, participate in the state plan."

**SECTION 2.**

This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

**SECTION 3.**

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