

House Bill 1318

By: Representatives Bordeaux of the 125<sup>th</sup>, Campbell of the 39<sup>th</sup>, Massey of the 24<sup>th</sup>, and Mangham of the 62<sup>nd</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 12 of Title 17 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to legal  
2 defense of indigents, so as to change provisions relating to the qualifications of members of  
3 the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council and members of the public defender  
4 selection panel; to provide for effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
5 purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 12 of Title 17 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to legal defense  
9 of indigents, is amended by striking subsection (c) of Code Section 17-12-3, relating to the  
10 membership of the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council, and inserting in lieu thereof  
11 the following:

12 "(c) In making these appointments, the appointing authorities shall seek to identify and  
13 appoint persons who represent a diversity of backgrounds and experience; and shall solicit  
14 suggestions from the State Bar of Georgia, state and local bar associations, the Georgia  
15 Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the councils representing the various categories  
16 of state court judges in Georgia, and the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of the State of  
17 Georgia, as well as from the public and other interested organizations and individuals  
18 within the state. The appointing authorities shall not appoint a prosecuting attorney as  
19 defined in paragraph (6) of Code Section 19-13-51, any employee of a prosecuting  
20 attorney's office, or an employee of the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of the State of  
21 Georgia to serve on the council."

22 **SECTION 2.**

23 Said chapter is further amended by striking subsection (a) of Code Section 17-12-20, relating  
24 to the public defender selection panel for each judicial circuit, and inserting in lieu thereof  
25 the following:

