

Senate Bill 20

By: Senators Butler of the 55th, Henson of the 41st, Seay of the 34th, Fort of the 39th, Tate of the 38th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to assault and battery, so as to provide for the crime of female genital mutilation; to  
3 provide for penalties; to provide for exceptions; to provide that certain statutory privileges  
4 shall not be available; to provide for applicability; to provide an effective date; to repeal  
5 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
9 assault and battery, is amended by adding a new Code Section 16-5-27 to read as follows:  
10 "16-5-27.

11 (a) Any person:

12 (1) Who knowingly circumcises, excises, or infibulates, in whole or in part, the labia  
13 majora, labia minora, or clitoris of a female under 18 years of age;

14 (2) Who is a parent, guardian, or has immediate custody or control of a female under 18  
15 years of age and knowingly consents or permits to the circumcision, excision, or  
16 infibulation, in whole or in part, of the labia majora, labia minora, or clitoris of such  
17 female; or

18 (3) Who knowingly removes or causes or permits the removal of a female under 18 years  
19 of age from this state for the purpose of circumcising, excising, or infibulating, in whole  
20 or in part, the labia majora, labia minora, or clitoris of such female  
21 shall be guilty of female genital mutilation.

22 (b) A person convicted of female genital mutilation shall be punished by imprisonment for  
23 not less than five nor more than 20 years.

24 (c) This Code section shall not apply to procedures performed by or under the direction  
25 of a physician, a registered professional nurse, a certified nurse midwife, or a licensed  
26 practical nurse licensed pursuant to Chapter 34 or 26, respectively, of Title 43 when

1 necessary to preserve the physical health of the female or during or after labor or childbirth  
2 for medical reasons connected with the labor or childbirth.  
3 (d) Consent of the female under 18 years of age or the parent, guardian, or custodian of the  
4 female under 18 years of age shall not be a defense to the offense of female genital  
5 mutilation. Religion, ritual, custom, or standard practice shall not be a defense to the  
6 offense of female genital mutilation.  
7 (e) The statutory privileges provided by Chapter 9 of Title 24 shall not apply to  
8 proceedings in which one of the parties to the privilege is charged with a crime against a  
9 female under 18 years of age, but such person shall be compellable to give evidence only  
10 on the specific act for which the defendant is charged."

11 **SECTION 2.**

12 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2005, and shall apply to all offenses committed  
13 on or after such date.

14 **SECTION 3.**

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