

Senate Bill 23

By: Senators Butler of the 55th, Henson of the 41st, Weber of the 40th, Miles of the 43rd, Adelman of the 42nd and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To establish the "DeKalb County Commission on Disability"; to provide for appointment of
2 members of the commission; to provide for other matters relative thereto; to provide an
3 effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

6 The General Assembly finds that full access to employment, program facilities, and services
7 is vitally important to the residents of DeKalb County, whether disabled or not disabled, and
8 that the establishment in DeKalb County of a commission on disability recognizes the
9 importance of such access. The intent of this Act is to bring about full inclusion of all
10 DeKalb County residents, whether disabled or not disabled, into all aspects of community
11 life in DeKalb County through collaborative partnership among residents, local government,
12 nonprofit organizations, and other entities and through strategic management, education,
13 advocacy, training, research, and improved service delivery.

14 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

15 (a) There is hereby created and established the "DeKalb County Commission on Disability,"
16 hereinafter referred to as the "commission," which shall be composed of 12 members. Five
17 members shall be appointed by the chief executive officer of DeKalb County. Each of the
18 seven commissioners of the Board of Commissioners of DeKalb County shall appoint one
19 member. The commission shall have an executive director appointed by the chief executive
20 officer of DeKalb County. The executive director may hire, subject to available funds, one
21 staff person until such time as the commission determines additional staff is necessary.

22 (b) All appointments to the commission shall become effective on the first day of the month
23 following the month in which this Act becomes law. Members shall be appointed and may
24 be reappointed to terms of office of two years each and until their respective successors are
25 appointed and qualified. In the event of death, resignation, disqualification, or removal for

1 any reason of any member of the commission, the vacancy shall be filled prior to the next
2 regular meeting in the same manner as the original appointment and the successor shall serve
3 for the unexpired term.

4 (c) Membership on the commission does not constitute public office and no member shall
5 be disqualified from holding public office by reason of his or her membership on the
6 commission.

7 (d) Members of the commission shall serve without compensation, except that each member
8 may be reimbursed out of the funds of the commission as funds are available for expenses
9 incurred as a result of his or her duties as a commission member in accordance with the State
10 of Georgia mileage reimbursement allowance.

11 (e) The commission shall elect a chairperson and such other officers from among their
12 number and make such bylaws for its operation as may be necessary or appropriate.

13 (f) The commission may establish advisory committees. All members of the advisory
14 committee shall be knowledgeable about disability issues.

15 **SECTION 3.**

16 The chairperson of the commission may contract with other agencies, public or private, or
17 persons as the chairperson deems necessary for the rendering and affording of such services,
18 facilities, studies, research, and reports to the commission as will best assist it to carry out
19 its duties and responsibilities. The chairperson shall provide timely notice to the Board of
20 Commissioners of DeKalb County of all such contracts entered into as a courtesy.

21 **SECTION 4.**

22 The commission is vested with the following functions and authorities:

23 (1) To form a volunteer disability task force composed of DeKalb County residents,
24 advocates, and leaders to gather pertinent information;

25 (2) To host town hall meetings, public forums, and presentations to inform and solicit
26 public input;

27 (3) To identify the existing needs of the residents of DeKalb County, disabled and not
28 disabled, which impact full access to employment, program facilities, and services;

29 (4) To cooperate with and seek cooperation from every department, agency, or
30 instrumentality in furtherance of the purposes of this Act;

31 (5) To develop liaisons with civic organizations and nonprofit entities to use as resources
32 and sources of information dissemination;

33 (6) To develop task forces to raise awareness at the neighborhood and community level;
34 and

1 (7) To utilize public service announcements on local television to disseminate
2 information and educate.

3 **SECTION 5.**

4 (a) The commission is authorized to accept and use property, both real and personal, and
5 services for the purpose of carrying out this Act. The commission is authorized to accept and
6 use gifts, grants, and donations for the purpose of carrying out this Act. Any funds, property,
7 or services received by gifts, grants, or donations shall be kept separate and apart from any
8 funds received from any governmental agency, and such funds, property, or services so
9 received by gifts, grants, or donations shall be the property and the funds of the commission
10 and, as such, shall not lapse at the end of each fiscal year but shall remain under the control
11 of and subject to the direction of the commission to carry out the provisions of this Act.

12 (b) The commission may solicit funds from the federal government, state government,
13 county government, and municipalities, and any public funds donated by government are
14 authorized, provided that the commission accounts for the spending of such funds on an
15 annual basis. The Board of Commissioners of DeKalb County is hereby authorized to
16 appropriate county funds for use by the commission.

17 (c) The commission shall make an annual report on September 1 of each year of its findings
18 and recommendations to the members of the DeKalb County legislative delegation, the
19 Board of Commissioners of DeKalb County, the chief executive officer of DeKalb County,
20 and the judicial officers of DeKalb County.

21 **SECTION 6.**

22 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2005.

23 **SECTION 7.**

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