

House Bill 212

By: Representatives Manning of the 32<sup>nd</sup>, Parsons of the 42<sup>nd</sup>, Oliver of the 83<sup>rd</sup>, Talton of the 145<sup>th</sup>, Lunsford of the 110<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 15-11-9 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 appointment of a guardian ad litem for a child in a proceeding in juvenile court, so as to  
3 require certain training for guardians ad litem appointed for children in deprivation cases; to  
4 provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

7 Code Section 15-11-9 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to appointment of  
8 a guardian ad litem for a child in a proceeding in juvenile court, is amended by striking  
9 subsection (b) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

10 "(b) The court at any stage of a proceeding under this article, on application of a party or  
11 on its own motion, shall appoint a guardian ad litem for a child who is a party to the  
12 proceeding if the child has no parent, guardian, or custodian appearing on the child's behalf  
13 or if the interests of the parent, guardian, or custodian appearing on the child's behalf  
14 conflict with the child's interests or in any other case in which the interests of the child  
15 require a guardian. A party to the proceeding or the employee or representative of a party  
16 to the proceeding shall not be appointed. In deprivation cases, a person appointed as a  
17 child's guardian ad litem must have received before the appointment training appropriate  
18 to the role administered or approved by the Office of the Child Advocate, and may be an  
19 attorney or court appointed special advocate, or both, ~~may be appointed as the child's~~  
20 ~~guardian ad litem.~~"

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

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

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**SECTION 3.**

2 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.