

Senate Bill 600

By: Senators Fort of the 39th, Tate of the 38th, Thomas of the 2nd, Seay of the 34th and Zamarripa of the 36th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 10 of Title 17 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to the death penalty generally, so as to provide for a moratorium on the  
3 administration of a death sentence; to provide a statement of legislative findings; to provide  
4 for conflicts and construction; to provide for applicability; to provide for automatic repeal;  
5 to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 The General Assembly finds that:

- 9 (1) Life is the most valuable possession of a human being and there has been increasing  
10 public awareness of individuals wrongfully convicted of murder, in Georgia and  
11 elsewhere in the nation;
- 12 (2) The execution of an innocent person by the State of Georgia would be a grave and  
13 irreversible injustice;
- 14 (3) In January, 2006, the American Bar Association published *Ensuring Fairness and*  
15 *Accuracy in State Death Penalty Systems: The Georgia Death Penalty Assessment*  
16 *Report*, which analyzed 12 issues related to Georgia's laws, procedures, and practices  
17 related to the death penalty in Georgia, and a majority of the members of the Georgia  
18 Death Penalty Assessment Team have called for a moratorium on executions and capital  
19 prosecutions;
- 20 (4) There is public concern that racial and socioeconomic factors influence decisions to  
21 seek or impose the death penalty and there is a lack of any meaningful procedure to  
22 ensure uniform application of the death penalty in each county throughout the state; and
- 23 (5) In order for the state to protect its moral and ethical integrity, the state must ensure  
24 a justice system which is impartial, uncorrupted, equitable, and competent, and further  
25 study is necessary to ensure that the state is fulfilling its obligation in this sense and,  
26 therefore, a moratorium on administration of the death penalty is warranted.



- 1 **SECTION 4.**
- 2 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.