

House Bill 1292 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Keown of the 173rd, Neal of the 1st, Mills of the 25th, Buckner of the 130th, Borders of the 175th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 holidays and observances, so as to create a prison chaplains appreciation day; to repeal
3 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, studies prove chaplaincy and faith based programs have the strongest capacity
5 for redeeming, rehabilitating, and successfully moving inmates back into society; and

6 WHEREAS, with over 50,000 incarcerated, Georgia leads the nation in the percentage of its
7 population in prison; and

8 WHEREAS, Georgia's state and county prisons are served by dedicated prison chaplains
9 who bring hope into very difficult circumstances; and

10 WHEREAS, Georgia prison chaplains are asked to meet the spiritual and physical needs of
11 thousands of inmates and staff with very limited resources; and

12 WHEREAS, chaplains positively impact inmate behavior and reduce recidivism rates,
13 thereby contributing to the safety and well-being of Georgia.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

15 **SECTION 1.**

16 Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to holidays and
17 observances, is amended by adding a new Code Section 1-4-16 to read as follows:

18 "1-4-16.

19 The fourth Monday in March of each year is designated and shall be observed as 'Prison
20 Chaplains Appreciation Day' in all state and private correctional institutions in Georgia."

- 1
- SECTION 2.**

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All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.