

## House Bill 16

By: Representatives Golick of the 34<sup>th</sup>, Tumlin of the 38<sup>th</sup>, Lindsey of the 54<sup>th</sup>, Hatfield of the 177<sup>th</sup>, Jacobs of the 80<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 45-1-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 complaints or information from public employees as to fraud, waste, and abuse in state  
3 programs and operations, so as to change certain definitions to include a broader list of  
4 employees, officials, and administrators who may be protected by the provisions of this Code  
5 section; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 45-1-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to complaints or  
9 information from public employees as to fraud, waste, and abuse in state programs and  
10 operations, is amended by revising paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection (a) to read as  
11 follows:

12 "(3) 'Public employee' means any person who is employed by the executive, judicial, or  
13 legislative branch of the state or by any other department, board, bureau, commission,  
14 authority, or other agency of the state. This term also includes all employees, officials,  
15 and administrators of any agency covered under the State Merit System of Personnel  
16 Administration and any local or regional governmental entity that receives any funds  
17 from the State of Georgia or any state agency.

18 (4) 'Public employer' means the executive, judicial, or legislative branch of the state ~~or~~  
19 any other department, board, bureau, commission, authority, or other agency of the state  
20 which employs or appoints a public employee or public employees; or any local or  
21 regional governmental entity that receives any funds from the State of Georgia or any  
22 state agency."

23 **SECTION 2.**

24 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.