

House Bill 16 (RULES COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Golick of the 34th, Tumlin of the 38th, Lindsey of the 54th, Hatfield of the 177th, Jacobs of the 80th, 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 change the definition of "retaliate"; to provide for related matters; to repeal
6 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Code Section 45-1-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to complaints or
10 information from public employees as to fraud, waste, and abuse in state programs and
11 operations, is amended by revising paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) of subsection (a) as 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 (5) 'Retaliate' or 'retaliation' refers to the discharge, suspension, or demotion by a public
24 employer of a public employee or any other adverse employment action taken by a public
25 employer against a public employee in the terms or conditions of employment for

1 disclosing a violation of or noncompliance with a law, rule, or regulation to either a
2 supervisor or ~~state~~ government agency."

3 **SECTION 2**

4 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.