

The House Committee on Children and Youth offers the following substitute to HB 542:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 28 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the General  
2 Assembly, so as to create the Georgia Legislative Youth Advisory Council to advise the  
3 legislature on issues relating to youth; to provide for duties, jurisdiction, and membership;  
4 to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Title 28 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the General Assembly, is  
8 amended by adding a new chapter to read as follows:

9 "CHAPTER 8A

10 28-8A-1.

11 (a) There is created the Georgia Legislative Youth Advisory Council. As used in this  
12 chapter, the term 'council' means the Georgia Legislative Youth Advisory Council.

13 (b) The purpose of the Georgia Legislative Youth Advisory Council shall be to advise the  
14 Georgia General Assembly and its committees, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker  
15 of the House of Representatives on proposed and pending legislation, state budget  
16 expenditures, and policy matters relating to youth.

17 (c) The council shall examine issues of importance to youth, including, but not limited to,  
18 education, employment, and strategies to increase youth participation in government, and  
19 any other issue the council deems important.

20 (d)(1) The council shall consist of 40 voting members who shall serve two-year terms  
21 and shall be selected in the summer months of a nonelection year.

22 (2) Members shall be residents of the State of Georgia and shall be older than 16 but not  
23 older than 21 at the time they are selected.

1 (3) The Speaker of the House shall appoint ten members and the President of the Senate  
2 shall appoint ten members.

3 (4) The minority leaders of the House and Senate shall appoint ten members each.

4 (5) Of the 40 members, there shall be at least two representatives from each of Georgia's  
5 congressional districts.

6 (6) Four legislators shall be appointed to the council. Two of these legislators shall be  
7 members of the House of Representatives and shall be selected by the Speaker of the  
8 House. The remaining two legislators shall be members of the Senate and shall be  
9 selected by the President of the Senate. The legislators shall observe, advise the council,  
10 and vote only to break a tie.

11 (7) At the first meeting, the councilmembers in attendance shall elect two  
12 cochairpersons. The chairpersons shall be voting members of the council. The  
13 chairpersons shall be authorized to call meetings and shall present the annual publication  
14 to the General Assembly. The House of Representatives and the Senate shall permit the  
15 cochairpersons to address the legislators of the respective chambers at least once during  
16 the legislative session. The council rules shall be established at the initial meeting of the  
17 council.

18 28-8A-2.

19 (a) The council shall meet a minimum of four times a year. Additional meetings may take  
20 place at the request of either cochairperson. Three of the four meetings shall take place as  
21 follows: one before the legislative session, one during the session, and one after the session  
22 has adjourned. In addition to the four meetings a year, the council shall hold at least one  
23 public hearing in which youths are encouraged to attend and bring issues to the council.

24 (b) The council shall publish an annual report for the purpose of advising the General  
25 Assembly. The report shall be published and presented at the start of the legislative  
26 session. The report shall include policy proposals having to do with issues the council  
27 deems important to the youth of this state. The report published pursuant to this subsection  
28 shall not be published at any expense to the State of Georgia.

29 (c) The members of the council shall be permitted to speak on legislative issues as  
30 permitted by the committee chairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate."

## 31 **SECTION 2.**

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