

House Bill 972

By: Representatives Tumlin of the 38th, Lane of the 167th, and Lindsey of the 54th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 15 of Title 44 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 management of institutional funds, so as to enact the "Uniform Prudent Management of
3 Institutional Funds Act"; to provide standards for charities to use in managing investments
4 and spending from endowments; to provide for the management of institutional funds; to
5 provide for a short title; to provide for applicability; to provide for related matters; to provide
6 an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Title 44 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to property, is amended by
10 revising Chapter 15, relating to the management of institutional funds, in its entirety as
11 follows:

12 "CHAPTER 15

13 44-15-1.

14 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the 'Uniform Prudent Management of
15 Institutional Funds Act.'

16 44-15-2.

17 As used in this chapter, the term:

18 (1) 'Charitable purpose' means the relief of poverty, the advancement of education or
19 religion, the promotion of health, the promotion of a governmental purpose, or any other
20 purpose the achievement of which is beneficial to the community.

21 (2) 'Endowment fund' means an institutional fund, or any part thereof, that, under the
22 terms of a gift instrument, is not wholly expendable by the institution on a current basis.

1 The term shall not include assets that an institution designates as an endowment fund for
2 its own use.

3 (3) 'Gift instrument' means a record or records, including an institutional solicitation,
4 under which property is granted to, transferred to, or held by an institution as an
5 institutional fund.

6 (4) 'Institution' means:

7 (A) A person, other than an individual, organized and operated exclusively for
8 charitable purposes;

9 (B) A government or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, to the
10 extent that it holds funds exclusively for a charitable purpose; and

11 (C) A trust that had both charitable and noncharitable interests, after all noncharitable
12 interests have terminated.

13 (5) 'Institutional fund' means a fund held by an institution exclusively for charitable
14 purposes. The term does not include:

15 (A) Program related assets;

16 (B) A fund held for an institution by a trustee that is not an institution; or

17 (C) A fund in which a beneficiary who is not an institution has an interest, other than
18 an interest that could arise upon violation or failure of the purposes of the fund.

19 (6) 'Person' means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership,
20 limited liability company, association, joint venture, public corporation, government or
21 governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial
22 entity.

23 (7) 'Program related asset' means an asset held by an institution primarily to accomplish
24 a charitable purpose of the institution and not primarily for investment.

25 (8) 'Record' means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored
26 in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

27 44-15-3.

28 (a) Subject to the intent of a donor expressed in a gift instrument or any express written
29 agreement between the donor and the institution, an institution, in managing and investing
30 an institutional fund, shall consider the charitable purposes of the institution and the
31 purposes of the institutional fund.

32 (b) In addition to complying with the duty of loyalty imposed by law other than this
33 chapter, each person responsible for managing and investing an institutional fund shall
34 manage and invest the fund in good faith and with the care an ordinarily prudent person in
35 a like position would exercise under similar circumstances, considering the purposes,
36 terms, distribution requirements, and other circumstances of the institutional fund.

- 1 (c) In managing and investing an institutional fund, an institution:
- 2 (1) May incur only costs that are appropriate and reasonable in relation to the assets, the
- 3 purposes of the institution and the institutional fund, and the skills reasonably available
- 4 to the institution; and
- 5 (2) Shall make a reasonable effort to verify facts relevant to the management and
- 6 investment of the fund.
- 7 (d) An institution may pool two or more institutional funds for purposes of management
- 8 and investment.
- 9 (e) Except as otherwise provided by a gift instrument, the following rules apply:
- 10 (1) In managing and investing an institutional fund, the following factors, if relevant,
- 11 must be considered:
- 12 (A) General economic conditions;
- 13 (B) The possible effect of inflation or deflation;
- 14 (C) The expected tax consequences, if any, of investment decisions or strategies;
- 15 (D) The role that each investment or course of action plays within the overall
- 16 investment portfolio of the fund;
- 17 (E) The expected total return from income and the appreciation of investments;
- 18 (F) Other resources of the institution;
- 19 (G) The needs of the institution and the fund to make distributions and to preserve
- 20 capital; and
- 21 (H) An asset's special relationship or special value, if any, to the charitable purposes
- 22 of the institution or to the donor;
- 23 (2) Management and investment decisions about an individual asset shall not be made
- 24 in isolation but rather in the context of the institutional fund's portfolio of investments
- 25 as a whole and as a part of an overall investment strategy having risk and return
- 26 objectives reasonably suited to the fund and to the institution;
- 27 (3) Except as otherwise provided by law and the provisions of this chapter, an institution
- 28 may invest in any kind of property or type of investment consistent with this Code
- 29 section;
- 30 (4) An institution shall reasonably manage the risk of concentrated holdings of assets by
- 31 diversifying the investments of the institutional fund or by using some other appropriate
- 32 mechanism, except as provided in this paragraph, as follows:
- 33 (A) The duty imposed by this paragraph shall not apply if the institution reasonably
- 34 determines that, because of special circumstances, or because of the specific purposes,
- 35 terms, distribution requirements, and other circumstances of the institutional fund, the
- 36 purposes of the fund are better served without complying with the duty. For purposes

1 of this paragraph, special circumstances shall include an asset's special relationship or
 2 special value, if any, to the charitable purposes of the institution or to the donor;

3 (B) No person responsible for managing and investing an institutional fund shall be
 4 liable for failing to comply with the duty imposed by this paragraph to the extent that
 5 the terms of the gift instrument or express written agreement between the donor and the
 6 institution limits or waives the duty by express reference to this Code section; and

7 (C) The governing board of an institution may retain property contributed by a donor
 8 to an institutional fund for as long as the governing board deems advisable;

9 (5) Within a reasonable time after receiving property, an institution shall make and carry
 10 out decisions concerning the retention or disposition of the property or to the rebalancing
 11 of a portfolio, in order to bring the institutional fund into compliance with the purposes,
 12 terms, and distribution requirements of the institution or the institutional fund as
 13 necessary to meet other circumstances of the institution or the institutional fund and the
 14 requirements of this chapter; and

15 (6) A person that has special skills or expertise, or is selected in reliance upon the
 16 person's representation that such person has special skills or expertise, has a duty to use
 17 those skills or expertise in managing and investing institutional funds.

18 44-15-4.

19 (a) Subject to the intent of a donor expressed in the gift instrument or to any express
 20 written agreement between a donor and an institution, an institution may appropriate for
 21 expenditure or accumulate assets of an endowment fund as the institution determines is
 22 prudent for the uses, benefits, purposes, and duration for which the endowment fund is
 23 established. Unless stated otherwise in the gift instrument, the assets in an endowment
 24 fund are donor restricted assets until appropriated for expenditure by the institution. In
 25 making a determination to appropriate or accumulate assets, the institution shall act in good
 26 faith, with the care that an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under
 27 similar circumstances, and shall consider, if relevant, the following factors:

28 (1) The duration and preservation of the endowment fund;

29 (2) The purposes of the institution and the endowment fund;

30 (3) General economic conditions;

31 (4) The possible effect of inflation or deflation;

32 (5) The expected total return from income and the appreciation of investments;

33 (6) Other resources of the institution; and

34 (7) The investment policy of the institution.

35 (b) To limit the authority to appropriate assets for expenditure or accumulation under
 36 subsection (a) of this Code section, a gift instrument must specifically state the limitation.

1 (c) Terms in a gift instrument designating a gift as an endowment, or a direction or
2 authorization in the gift instrument to use only income, interest, dividends, or rents,
3 issues, or profits, or to preserve the principal intact, or other words of similar meaning
4 shall:

5 (1) Create an endowment fund of permanent duration, unless otherwise provided by the
6 gift instrument for limiting the duration of the fund; and

7 (2) Not otherwise limit the authority to appropriate assets for expenditure or
8 accumulation under subsection (a) of this Code section.

9 44-15-5.

10 (a) Subject to any specific limitation set forth in a gift instrument or in law other than this
11 chapter, an institution may delegate to an external agent the management and investment
12 of an institutional fund to the extent that an institution could prudently delegate under the
13 circumstances. An institution shall act in good faith, with the care that an ordinarily
14 prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances, in:

15 (1) Selecting an agent;

16 (2) Establishing the scope and terms of the delegation, consistent with the purposes of
17 the institution and the institutional fund; and

18 (3) Periodically reviewing the agent's actions in order to monitor the agent's
19 performance and compliance with the scope and terms of the delegation.

20 (b) In performing a delegated function, an agent owes a duty to the institution to exercise
21 reasonable care to comply with the scope and terms of the delegation.

22 (c) An institution that complies with subsection (a) of this Code section is not liable for
23 the decisions or actions of an agent for the performance of a delegated function.

24 (d) By accepting the delegation of a management or investment function from an
25 institution that is subject to the laws of this state, an agent submits to the jurisdiction of the
26 courts of this state in all proceedings arising from or related to the delegation or the
27 performance of the delegated function.

28 (e) An institution may delegate management and investment functions to its committees,
29 officers, or employees as otherwise authorized by law.

30 44-15-6.

31 (a) If the donor or a donor's designee consents in a record, an institution may release or
32 modify, in whole or in part, a restriction contained in a gift instrument on the management,
33 investment, or purpose of an institutional fund. A release or modification may not allow
34 a fund to be used for a purpose other than a charitable purpose of the institution.

1 (b) The court, upon application of an institution, may modify a restriction contained in a
2 gift instrument regarding the management or investment of an institutional fund if the
3 restriction has become impracticable or wasteful, if it impairs the management or
4 investment of the fund, or if, because of circumstances not anticipated by the donor, a
5 modification of a restriction will further the purposes of the fund. The institution shall
6 notify the Attorney General of the application, and the Attorney General must be given an
7 opportunity to be heard. To the extent practicable, any modification must be made in
8 accordance with the donor's probable intention.

9 (c) If a particular charitable purpose or a restriction contained in a gift instrument on the
10 use of an institutional fund becomes unlawful, impracticable, impossible to achieve, or
11 wasteful, the court, upon application of an institution, may modify the purpose of the fund
12 or the restriction on the use of the fund in a manner consistent with the charitable purposes
13 expressed in the gift instrument. The institution shall notify the Attorney General of the
14 application, and the Attorney General must be given an opportunity to be heard.

15 (d) If an institution determines that a restriction contained in a gift instrument on the
16 management, investment, or purpose of an institutional fund is unlawful, impracticable,
17 impossible to achieve, or wasteful, the institution, 60 days after notification to the Attorney
18 General, may release or modify the restriction, in whole or part, if:

- 19 (1) The institutional fund subject to the restriction has a total value of less than
20 \$100,000.00;
- 21 (2) More than 20 years have elapsed since the fund was established; and
- 22 (3) The institution uses the property in a manner consistent with the charitable purposes
23 expressed in the gift instrument.

24 44-15-7.

25 Compliance with this chapter is determined in light of the facts and circumstances existing
26 at the time a decision is made or action is taken, and not by hindsight. This chapter applies
27 to institutional funds existing on or established after July 1, 2008. As applied to
28 institutional funds existing on July 1, 2008, this chapter governs only decisions made or
29 actions taken on or after that date. This chapter shall not authorize electronic delivery of
30 any legally required notice.

31 44-15-8.

32 In applying and construing this uniform act, consideration shall be given to the need to
33 promote uniformity of the law with respect to its subject matter among states that enact it."

1 **SECTION 2.**

2 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2008.

3 **SECTION 3.**

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