

Senate Bill 402

By: Senators Williams of the 19th, Stoner of the 6th, Mullis of the 53rd, Pearson of the 51st and Seay of the 34th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 32 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to highways, bridges,
2 and ferries, so as to establish the Georgia Coordinating Council for Rural and Human
3 Services Transportation to encourage efficient transportation service delivery in the rural
4 areas of the state and to coordinate human service transportation services in both the rural
5 and urban areas of the state; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for the
6 membership, meetings, and expenses of such council; to provide for advisory committees;
7 to provide for the duties of the council; to provide for an annual report; to provide for related
8 matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

11 Title 32 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to highways, bridges, and ferries,
12 is amended by adding a new chapter to read as follows:

13 style="text-align:center">"CHAPTER 12

14 32-12-1.

15 The General Assembly finds that there exists a number of programs designed to provide
16 rural and human services transportation, and that frequently these services are provided
17 over large geographic areas and through various funding sources which are frequently
18 targeted to narrowly defined client bases. The sheer number of such programs lends itself
19 to a need for coordination among the programs so as to best assist economies in purchasing
20 equipment and operating these many programs, to better serve the taxpayers of the state in
21 ensuring the most cost-effective delivery of these services, and to best serve the clients
22 utilizing the transportation services provided through these programs.

1 32-12-2.

2 There is hereby created the Georgia Coordinating Council for Rural and Human Services
3 Transportation. Such council shall be composed of the State School Superintendent and
4 the commissioners of the Department of Transportation, Department of Human Resources,
5 Department of Community Health, and Department of Labor, or their respective designees.
6 The commissioner of transportation or his or her designee shall serve as chairperson.
7 Designees appointed pursuant to this Code section by the commissioner of an agency or
8 the State School Superintendent shall at a minimum be at the level of division director.

9 32-12-3.

10 The Georgia Coordinating Council for Rural and Human Services Transportation shall
11 meet at the call of the chairperson at such times and locations as the chairperson shall
12 determine. The council shall meet not less often than quarterly, and expenses for
13 participation of its members in said meetings shall be borne by each participating agency.
14 Administrative expenses, other than travel or per diem expenses of members, shall be borne
15 by the Department of Transportation.

16 32-12-4.

17 The Georgia Coordinating Council for Rural and Human Services Transportation may
18 establish such advisory committees as it deems appropriate to fulfill its mission, which
19 committees may consist of local government representatives; private and public sector
20 transportation providers, both for profit and nonprofit in nature; public transit system
21 representatives, both rural and urban; area planning and development commissions; and
22 representatives of the clients served by the various programs administered by the agencies
23 represented on the council.

24 32-12-5.

25 The Georgia Coordinating Council for Rural and Human Services Transportation shall
26 examine the manner in which transportation services are provided by the participating
27 agencies represented on the council. Such examination shall include but not be limited to:

- 28 (1) An analysis of all programs administered by participating agencies, including capital
29 and operating costs, and overlapping or duplication of services among such programs,
30 with emphasis on how to overcome such overlapping or duplication;
- 31 (2) The means by which transportation services are coordinated among state, local, and
32 federal funding source programs;

1 (3) The means by which both capital and operating costs for transportation could be
 2 combined or shared among agencies, including at a minimum shared purchase of vehicles
 3 and maintenance of such vehicles;

4 (4) An analysis of those areas which might appropriately be consolidated to lower the
 5 costs of program delivery without sacrificing program quality to clients, including shared
 6 use of vehicles for client trips regardless of the funding source which pays for their trips;

7 (5) An analysis of state of the art efforts to coordinate rural and human services
 8 transportation elsewhere in the nation, including at a minimum route scheduling so as to
 9 avoid duplicative trips in a given locality;

10 (6) A review of any limitations which may be imposed by various federally funded
 11 programs and how these limitations might be overcome through shared capital purchases
 12 or operations;

13 (7) An analysis of how agency programs interact with and impact upon state, local, or
 14 regional transportation services performed on behalf of the general public through state,
 15 local, or regional transit systems; and

16 (8) An evaluation of potential cost sharing opportunities available for clients served by
 17 council agencies so as to maximize service delivery efficiencies and to obtain the
 18 maximum benefit on their behalf with the limited amount of funds available.

19 32-12-6.

20 No later than December 31 of each year, the Georgia Coordinating Council for Rural and
 21 Human Services Transportation shall provide a report to the Governor and to the presiding
 22 officers of the General Assembly, with copies of said report being sent to the chairpersons
 23 of the transportation committees of each chamber of the General Assembly. The report
 24 shall address each of the specific duties enumerated in Code Section 32-12-5 and such
 25 other subject areas within its purview as the council shall deem appropriate. Each report
 26 shall focus on existing conditions in coordination of rural and human services
 27 transportation within the state and shall make specific recommendations for means to
 28 improve such current practices. Such recommendations shall address at a minimum both
 29 the cost implications and the impact on client service of each recommendation."

30 SECTION 2.

31 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
 32 without such approval.

33 SECTION 3.

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