

Senate Bill 22

By: Senators Stoner of the 6th, Williams of the 19th, Orrock of the 36th, Mullis of the 53rd  
and Pearson of the 51st

**AS PASSED SENATE**

**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 Committee 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 committee; to provide for advisory committees;  
7 to provide for the duties of the committee; to provide for an annual report; to provide for  
8 related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
9 purposes.

10 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

11 **SECTION 1.**

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

14 "CHAPTER 12

15 32-12-1.

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

25 32-12-2.

26 There is hereby created the Georgia Coordinating Committee for Rural and Human  
27 Services Transportation of the Governor's Development Council.

28 32-12-3.

29 The Georgia Coordinating Committee for Rural and Human Services Transportation and  
30 its advisory subcommittees shall meet not less often than quarterly. Administrative  
31 expenses of the committee shall be borne by the Governor's Development Council. The  
32 members of the committee shall receive no extra compensation or reimbursement of  
33 expenses from the state for their services as members of the committee.

34 32-12-4.

35 The Georgia Coordinating Committee for Rural and Human Services Transportation shall  
36 establish the State Advisory Subcommittee for Rural and Human Services Transportation  
37 which shall consist of the State School Superintendent and the commissioners of the  
38 Department of Transportation, Department of Human Services, Department of Behavioral  
39 Health and Developmental Disabilities, Department of Community Health, Department of  
40 Labor, the Governor's Development Council, and the Department of Community Affairs  
41 or their respective designees. The commissioner of transportation or his or her designee  
42 shall serve as chairperson of the State Advisory Subcommittee for Rural and Human  
43 Services Transportation. The Georgia Coordinating Committee for Rural and Human  
44 Services Transportation may also establish such additional advisory subcommittees as it  
45 deems appropriate to fulfill its mission which shall consist of a representative of each  
46 metropolitan planning organization and representatives from each regional commission in  
47 this state and may include other local government representatives; private and public sector  
48 transportation providers, both for profit and nonprofit; voluntary transportation programs  
49 representatives; public transit system representatives, both rural and urban; and  
50 representatives of the clients served by the various programs administered by the agencies  
51 represented on the State Advisory Subcommittee for Rural and Human Services  
52 Transportation. Members of advisory committees shall be responsible for their own  
53 expenses and shall receive no compensation or reimbursement of expenses from the  
54 Georgia Coordinating Committee for Rural and Human Services Transportation, the State  
55 Advisory Subcommittee for Rural and Human Services Transportation, or the state for their  
56 services as members of an advisory committee.

57 32-12-5.

58 The Georgia Coordinating Committee for Rural and Human Services Transportation shall  
59 examine the manner in which transportation services are provided by the participating  
60 agencies represented on the committee. Such examination shall include but not be limited  
61 to:

62 (1) An analysis of all programs administered by participating agencies, including capital  
63 and operating costs, and overlapping or duplication of services among such programs,  
64 with emphasis on how to overcome such overlapping or duplication;

65 (2) The means by which transportation services are coordinated among state, local, and  
66 federal funding source programs;

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

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

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

76 (6) A review of any limitations which may be imposed by various federally funded  
77 programs and how the state can manage within those limitations as they review possible  
78 sharing opportunities;

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

82 (8) An evaluation of potential cost sharing opportunities available for clients served by  
83 committee agencies so as to maximize service delivery efficiencies and to obtain the  
84 maximum benefit on their behalf with the limited amount of funds available; and

85 (9) An analysis of possible methods to reduce costs, including, but not limited to, greater  
86 use of privatization.

87 32-12-6.

88 No later than July 1 of each year, the Governor's Development Council shall submit the  
89 preliminary report of the Georgia Coordinating Committee for Rural and Human Services  
90 Transportation to the members of the State Advisory Subcommittee for Rural and Human  
91 Services Transportation. Comments and recommendations may be submitted to the  
92 Governor's Development Council for a period of 30 days. No later than September 1 of

93 each year, the Governor's Development Council shall submit a final report to the  
94 Governor's Office of Planning and Budget for review and consideration. The report shall  
95 address each of the specific duties enumerated in Code Section 32-12-5 and such other  
96 subject areas within its purview as the Governor's Development Council shall deem  
97 appropriate. Each report shall focus on existing conditions in coordination of rural and  
98 human services transportation within the state and shall make specific recommendations  
99 for means to improve such current practices. Such recommendations shall address at a  
100 minimum both their cost implications and impact on client service. No later than January  
101 15 of each year, the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget shall submit the final report  
102 of the Governor's Development Council and any affiliated budget recommendations to the  
103 presiding officers of the General Assembly, with copies of said report sent to the  
104 chairpersons of the transportation committees, the appropriations committees, and the  
105 health and human services committees of each chamber of the General Assembly."

106 **SECTION 2.**

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

109 **SECTION 3.**

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