

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

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 over
17 large geographic areas through various funding sources which are frequently targeted to
18 narrowly defined client bases. The sheer number of such programs lends itself to a need
19 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.

23 32-12-2.

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

31 32-12-3.

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

38 32-12-4.

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

46 32-12-5.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

73 32-12-6.

74 No later than December 31 of each year, the Georgia Coordinating Council for Rural and
 75 Human Services Transportation shall provide a report to the Governor and to the presiding
 76 officers of the General Assembly, with copies of said report sent to the chairpersons of the
 77 transportation committees and the health and human services committees of each chamber
 78 of the General Assembly. The report shall address each of the specific duties enumerated
 79 in Code Section 32-12-5 and such other subject areas within its purview as the council
 80 shall deem appropriate. Each report shall focus on existing conditions in coordination of
 81 rural and human services transportation within the state and shall make specific
 82 recommendations for means to improve such current practices. Such recommendations
 83 shall address at a minimum both their cost implications and impact on client service."

84 **SECTION 2.**

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

87 **SECTION 3.**

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