

House Bill 237 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Lindsey of the 54<sup>th</sup> and Peake of the 137<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 49-5-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
2 powers and duties of the Department of Human Resources with respect to programs and  
3 protection for children, so as to revise a provision relating to financial assistance for adoptive  
4 parents; 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 Code Section 49-5-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the powers and  
8 duties of the Department of Human Resources with respect to programs and protection for  
9 children, is amended by revising subparagraph (a)(7)(F) as follows:

10 "(F) Providing financial assistance after the consummation of a legal adoption to  
11 families adopting children who would otherwise remain in foster care at state expense  
12 once the child has been placed for adoption, determined eligible for assistance, and the  
13 adoption assistance agreement has been signed prior to the finalization of the adoption  
14 by all parties. Financial assistance may only be granted for hard-to-place children with  
15 physical, mental, or emotional disabilities or with other problems for whom it is  
16 difficult to find a permanent home. Financial assistance may not exceed 100 percent of  
17 the amount that would have been paid for boarding such child in a family foster home  
18 and for special services such as medical care not available through insurance or public  
19 facilities. Such supplements shall only be available to families who could not provide  
20 for the child adequately without continued financial assistance. The department may  
21 review the supplements paid at any time but shall review them at least annually to  
22 determine the need for continued assistance;"

23 **SECTION 2.**

24 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.