

House Bill 886

By: Representatives Levitas of the 82nd, Lunsford of the 110th, and Glanton of the 76th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 6 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to sexual
2 offenses, so as to change certain provisions relating to sexual assault against persons in
3 custody, certain patients, and other persons subject to the authority of a supervisor or
4 disciplinary person; to remove a consent defense to sexual assault on certain persons; to
5 reorganize the Code section; to provide for a definition; to provide for misdemeanor
6 punishment under certain circumstances; to provide that the offense not be merged with other
7 offenses; provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Chapter 6 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to sexual offenses,
11 is amended by revising Code Section 16-6-5.1, relating to sexual assault against persons in
12 custody, as follows:

13 "16-6-5.1.

14 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

15 (1) 'Actor' means a person accused of sexual assault.

16 (2) 'Educational institution' means an elementary or secondary school.

17 (3) 'Intimate parts' means the genital area, groin, inner thighs, buttocks, or breasts of a
18 person.

19 ~~(3)~~(4) 'Psychotherapy' means the professional treatment or counseling of a mental or
20 emotional illness, symptom, or condition.

21 ~~(4)~~(5) 'Sexual contact' means any contact between the actor and a person not married to
22 the actor involving the intimate parts of either person for the purpose of sexual
23 gratification of the actor.

24 ~~(b) A probation or parole officer or other custodian or supervisor of another person~~
25 ~~referred to in this Code section commits sexual assault when he or she engages in sexual~~
26 ~~contact with another person who is a probationer or parolee under the supervision of said~~

27 ~~probation or parole officer or who is in the custody of law or who is enrolled in a school~~
28 ~~or who is detained in or is a patient in a hospital or other institution and such actor has~~
29 ~~supervisory or disciplinary authority over such other person. A person convicted of sexual~~
30 ~~assault shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than ten nor more than 30 years;~~
31 ~~provided, however, that any person convicted of the offense of sexual assault under this~~
32 ~~subsection of a child under the age of 14 years shall be punished by imprisonment for not~~
33 ~~less than 25 nor more than 50 years. Any person convicted under this subsection of the~~
34 ~~offense of sexual assault shall, in addition, be subject to the sentencing and punishment~~
35 ~~provisions of Code Section 17-10-6.2.~~

36 ~~(c)(1) A person commits sexual assault when such person has supervisory or disciplinary~~
37 ~~authority over another person and such person engages in sexual contact with that other~~
38 ~~person who is:~~

39 ~~(A) In the custody of law; or~~

40 ~~(B) Detained in or is a patient in a hospital or other institution.~~

41 ~~(2) A person commits sexual assault when, as an actual or purported practitioner of~~
42 ~~psychotherapy, he or she engages in sexual contact with another person who the actor~~
43 ~~knew or should have known is the subject of the actor's actual or purported treatment or~~
44 ~~counseling, or, if the treatment or counseling relationship was used to facilitate sexual~~
45 ~~contact between the actor and said person.~~

46 ~~(3) Consent of the victim shall not be a defense to a prosecution under this subsection.~~

47 ~~(4) A person convicted of sexual assault under this subsection shall be punished by~~
48 ~~imprisonment for not less than ten nor more than 30 years; provided, however, that any~~
49 ~~person convicted of the offense of sexual assault under this subsection of a child under~~
50 ~~the age of 14 years shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than 25 nor more than~~
51 ~~50 years. Any person convicted under this subsection of the offense of sexual assault~~
52 ~~shall, in addition, be subject to the sentencing and punishment provisions of Code Section~~
53 ~~17-10-6.2.~~

54 ~~(d) A person who is an employee, agent, or volunteer at any facility licensed or required~~
55 ~~to be licensed under Code Section 31-7-3, relating to long-term care facilities, or Code~~
56 ~~Section 31-7-12, relating to personal care homes, or who is required to be licensed pursuant~~
57 ~~to Code Section 31-7-151 or 31-7-173, relating to home health care and hospices, commits~~
58 ~~sexual assault when such person engages in sexual contact with another person who has~~
59 ~~been admitted to or is receiving services from such facility, person, or entity. A person~~
60 ~~convicted of sexual assault pursuant to this subsection shall be punished by imprisonment~~
61 ~~for not less than ten nor more than 30 years, or a fine of not more than \$5,000.00, or both.~~
62 ~~Any violation of this subsection shall constitute a separate offense. Any person convicted~~

63 ~~under this subsection of the offense of sexual assault shall, in addition, be subject to the~~
 64 ~~sentencing and punishment provisions of Code Section 17-10-6.2.~~

65 A person who has supervisory or disciplinary authority over another individual commits
 66 sexual assault when that person:

67 (1) Is an employee, agent, or volunteer of any educational institution and engages in
 68 sexual contact with such other individual who the actor knew or should have known is
 69 enrolled or attending the same educational institution;

70 (2) Is an employee, agent, or volunteer of any probation or parole office and engages in
 71 sexual contact with such other individual who the actor knew or should have known is
 72 a probationer or parolee under the supervision of the same probation or parole office;

73 (3) Is an employee, agent, or volunteer of a law enforcement agency and engages in
 74 sexual contact with such other individual who the actor knew or should have known is
 75 being detained by or is in the custody of any law enforcement agency;

76 (4) Is an employee, agent, or volunteer of a hospital and engages in sexual contact with
 77 such other individual who the actor knew or should have known is a patient or is being
 78 detained in the same hospital;

79 (5) Is an actual or purported practitioner of psychotherapy and engages in sexual contact
 80 with such other individual who the actor knew or should have known is the subject of the
 81 actor's actual or purported treatment or counseling or uses the treatment or counseling
 82 relationship to facilitate sexual contact between the actor and such individual; or

83 (6) Is an employee, agent, or volunteer at any facility licensed or required to be licensed
 84 under Code Section 31-7-3 or 31-7-12 or who is required to be licensed pursuant to Code
 85 Section 31-7-151 or 31-7-173 and engages in sexual contact with such other individual
 86 who the actor knew or should have known had been admitted to or is receiving services
 87 from such facility or the actor.

88 (c) Consent of the victim shall not be a defense to a prosecution under this Code section.

89 (d) A person convicted of sexual assault shall be punished by imprisonment for not less
 90 than one nor more than 30 years or by a fine, or both; provided, however, that:

91 (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, any person convicted of the
 92 offense of sexual assault of a child under the age of 16 years shall be punished by
 93 imprisonment for not less than 10 nor more than 50 years and shall, in addition, be
 94 subject to the sentencing and punishment provisions of Code Section 17-10-6.2; and

95 (2) If at the time of the offense the victim of the offense is at least 14 years of age but
 96 less than 18 years of age and the actor is 18 years of age or younger and is no more than
 97 four years older than the victim, such person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall
 98 not be subject to the sentencing and punishment provisions of Code Section 17-10-6.2.

99 (e) The offense of sexual assault shall be considered a separate offense and shall not merge
100 with any other offense."

101 **SECTION 2.**

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