

House Bill 935

By: Representatives Bruce of the 64th, Morgan of the 39th, Fludd of the 66th, and Mosby of the 90th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 12 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 commissions and other agencies, so as to create the Georgia Commission on Reducing
3 Poverty and Increasing Economic Security; to provide for a short title; to provide for a
4 legislative purpose; to provide for membership to such commission; to provide for certain
5 requirements for membership to such commission; to provide for certain procedures
6 regarding such commission; to provide for an effective date; to provide for related matters;
7 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

10 Chapter 12 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to commissions
11 and other agencies, is amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

12 style="text-align:center">"ARTICLE 10

13 50-12-150.

14 The General Assembly declares that it is the goal of this state that all of its citizens will live
15 free from poverty. Because there are people living in extreme poverty in every county in
16 Georgia, it is the responsibility of this state to protect and preserve human dignity and
17 healthy lifestyles, including adequate nutrition and housing, meaningful work, safe
18 communities, health care, and education.

19 50-12-151.

20 There is created the 'Georgia Commission on Reducing Poverty and Increasing Economic
21 Security,' hereafter referred to as the commission. The commission shall develop a
22 comprehensive plan for the elimination of poverty in Georgia consistent with international
23 human rights standards. The initial goal of the commission is to develop a poverty
24 elimination strategic plan to reduce extreme poverty in Georgia by at least 50 percent by

25 2015. In developing the overall strategic plan, and in working toward the goal of reducing
 26 extreme poverty in Georgia by at least 50 percent by 2015, the commission shall address,
 27 at a minimum, the following:

- 28 (1) Access to safe, decent, affordable housing;
- 29 (2) Access to adequate food and nutrition;
- 30 (3) Access to affordable and quality health care;
- 31 (4) Equal access to quality education and training;
- 32 (5) Dependable and affordable transportation;
- 33 (6) Access to quality and affordable child care;
- 34 (7) Opportunities to engage in meaningful and sustainable work that pays a living wage;
 35 and
- 36 (8) The availability of adequate income supports.

37 The strategic plan shall include specific policy and fiscal recommendations and a timeline
 38 for each stage of implementation for each recommendation. For each recommendation, the
 39 commission shall identify in measurable terms the actual or potential impact. The
 40 commission may review and may make comments and recommendations on existing or
 41 proposed programs, policies, administrative rules, and statutes that have an impact on
 42 poverty in Georgia and, in particular, people living in extreme poverty.

43 50-12-152.

44 (a) The commission shall consist of the following:

- 45 (1) Two members of the House of Representatives, one appointed by the Speaker of the
 46 House and one appointed by the minority leader of the House;
- 47 (2) Two members of the Senate, one appointed by the Lieutenant Governor and one
 48 appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; and
- 49 (3) Twenty members of the public to be appointed as follows:
 - 50 (A) Four members appointed by the Governor;
 - 51 (B) Four members appointed by the Speaker of the House;
 - 52 (C) Four members appointed by the minority leader of the House;
 - 53 (D) Four members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor; and
 - 54 (E) Four members appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.

55 (b) Of the members appointed pursuant to paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of this Code
 56 section, two members shall be from a service-based human rights organization; two
 57 members shall be from anti-poverty organizations, including one that focuses on rural
 58 poverty; two members shall have experienced extreme poverty; one member shall be from
 59 an organization that advocates for health care access, affordability, and availability; one
 60 member shall be a representative of an organization that advocates for persons with mental

61 illness; one member shall be a representative of an organization that advocates for children
62 and youth; one member shall be from an organization that advocates for quality and
63 equality in education; one member shall be from an organization that advocates for people
64 who are homeless; one member shall be a from a state-wide anti-hunger organization; one
65 member shall be a person with a disability; one member shall be from an organization that
66 advocates for persons with disabilities; one member shall be from an organization that
67 advocates for immigrants; one member shall be from a state-wide faith-based organization
68 that provides direct social services to the State of Georgia; one member shall be from an
69 organization that advocates economic security for women; one member shall be from an
70 organization that advocates for senior citizens; one member shall be from a labor
71 organization that represents primarily low- and middle-income wage earners; and one
72 member shall be a representative of a municipal or county government.

73 (c) Members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but, subject to the
74 availability of funds, they may be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary travel expenses
75 connected to commission business.

76 (d) Commission members shall be appointed within 60 days after the effective date of this
77 Act. The commission shall hold its initial meeting 30 days after at least 50 percent of the
78 members have been appointed. At such initial meeting the commission shall select a
79 person to serve as chairperson and vice chairperson, respectively. The commission may
80 appoint such other officers and establish committees to further carrying out its purpose set
81 forth in this article.

82 (e) The full commission shall meet at least annually. The commission shall issue a report
83 on its activities and recommendation to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the
84 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the Senate, and the
85 minority leader of the House no later than March 30, 2011."

86 **SECTION 2.**

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

89 **SECTION 3.**

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