

House Bill 458

By: Representatives Bruce of the 64th, Kidd of the 141st, Mayo of the 91st, Long of the 61st, Frazier of the 123rd, and others

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 Family
3 Economic Security; to provide for a short title; to provide for a legislative purpose; to
4 provide for membership to such commission; to provide for certain requirements for
5 membership to such commission; to provide for certain procedures regarding such
6 commission; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal
7 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **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 "ARTICLE 10

13 50-12-150.

14 The General Assembly recognizes that the citizens of Georgia have experienced
15 considerable economic hardship due to the severe recession and that there are people living
16 in extreme poverty in every county in Georgia as well as many others who have or will
17 experience poverty before the economy recovers. It is, therefore, necessary to determine
18 the extent of poverty throughout the state and to seek policy remedies aimed to protect and
19 afford opportunity to all citizens, including job training, educational and work
20 opportunities, health care, and safety.

21 50-12-151.

22 (a) There is created the Georgia Commission on Family Economic Security. The
23 commission shall develop a comprehensive plan to address the needs of the average
24 Georgian with particular concern for Georgia's most vulnerable citizens: children and the
25 elderly. The initial goal of the commission is to develop a strategic plan to reduce extreme

26 poverty in Georgia by at least 50 percent by 2015. In developing the overall strategic plan,
 27 and in working toward the goal of creating and maintaining jobs in this state, the
 28 commission shall address, at a minimum, the following:

- 29 (1) Access to quality education and training;
 30 (2) Dependable and affordable transportation; and
 31 (3) Access to affordable child care.

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

38 50-12-152.

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

- 40 (1) Two members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the
 41 House;
 42 (2) Two members of the Senate, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor; and
 43 (3) Twenty members of the public to be appointed as follows:
 44 (A) Four members appointed by the Governor;
 45 (B) Four members appointed by the Speaker of the House;
 46 (C) Four members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;
 47 (D) Four members appointed by the Commissioner of Labor; and
 48 (E) Four members appointed by the State School Superintendent.

49 (b) The members appointed pursuant to paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of this Code
 50 section may represent the following poverty related areas of the community: state-wide
 51 faith based organizations that provide direct social services; state wide organizations that
 52 represent the industrial business sector; organizations that represent and promote small
 53 business; organizations that represent primarily low- and middle-income wage earners;
 54 anti-poverty organizations, including one that focuses on rural poverty; organizations that
 55 provide state-wide health care; organizations that advocate for children and youth;
 56 organizations that advocate for quality and equality in education; organizations that
 57 advocate for people who are homeless; organizations that advocate for senior citizens; and
 58 municipal or county governments.

59 (c) Members of the commission shall serve without compensation.

60 (d) Commission members shall be appointed within 60 days after the effective date of this
 61 article. The commission shall hold its initial meeting 30 days after at least 50 percent of

62 the members have been appointed. At such initial meeting the commission shall select a
63 chairperson and a vice chairperson. The commission may appoint such other officers and
64 establish committees as the commission determines to be necessary to carry out this article.
65 (e) The full commission shall meet at least quarterly. The commission shall issue a report
66 on the economic well-being of Georgia citizens to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor,
67 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives not later than January 1, 2012. The
68 commission shall produce subsequent reports on its activities and recommendations on
69 January 1, 2013, and on January 1, 2014. The commission shall cease to exist after January
70 1, 2015."

71 **SECTION 2.**

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

74 **SECTION 3.**

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