

House Bill 177

By: Representatives Wilkerson of the 38th, Willard of the 51st, Chandler of the 105th, Oliver of the 82nd, Welch of the 110th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to child abuse and deprivation records, so as to provide that certain school personnel
3 who are required to report child abuse shall be notified upon receipt of such report and upon
4 completion of its investigation; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to
5 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to child
9 abuse and deprivation records, is amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section
10 49-5-41, relating to persons and agencies permitted access to records, by adding a new
11 paragraph to read as follows:

12 "(5.1)(A) As used in this paragraph, the term:

13 (i) 'Entity' means a child welfare agency providing protective services as designated
14 by the department, or in the absence of such agency, a law enforcement agency or
15 prosecuting attorney.

16 (ii) 'School' shall have the same meaning as set forth in Code Section 19-7-5.

17 (B) Within 24 hours of a school employee making a report of suspected child abuse
18 pursuant to Code Section 19-7-5, the entity that received such report shall acknowledge,
19 in writing, the receipt of such report to the reporting individual. Within five days of
20 completing the investigation of the suspected child abuse, such entity shall disclose, in
21 writing, to the school counselor for the school such child was attending at the time of
22 the reported child abuse, advising as to whether the suspected child abuse was
23 confirmed or unconfirmed. If a school does not have a school counselor, such
24 disclosure shall be made to the principal;"

25

SECTION 2

26 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.