

House Bill 999

By: Representatives Taylor of the 173rd, Cooper of the 43rd, Hawkins of the 27th, Jasperse of the 11th, and Clark of the 101st

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 49-5-12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 licensing and inspection of child welfare agencies, so as to require child welfare agencies
3 licensed in other states to also be licensed in Georgia to engage in placement activities in
4 Georgia; to provide for penalties; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws;
5 and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 49-5-12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to licensing and
9 inspection of child welfare agencies, is amended by adding a new subsection and revising
10 subsection (p) as follows:

11 "(b.1) Child welfare agencies licensed in other states and engaging in placement activities
12 in Georgia shall also be licensed in Georgia. This shall include any child welfare agency
13 in another state that solicits, advertises, or contacts residents of this state via the Internet
14 and that attempts to engage in placement activities in this state with any such resident."

15 "(p)(1) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, any ~~Any~~ child
16 welfare agency that ~~shall operate~~ operates without a license or commission issued by the
17 department shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be
18 punished by a fine of not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$200.00 for each such offense.
19 Each day of operation without a license or commission shall constitute a separate offense.
20 (2) Any child welfare agency that operates in violation of subsection (b.1) of this Code
21 section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished
22 by a fine of not less than \$500.00 nor more than \$1,000.00 for each such offense."

23 **SECTION 2.**

24 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.