

House Bill 250

By: Representatives Ballinger of the 23rd, Abrams of the 89th, Dollar of the 45th, Rogers of the 10th, Efstoration of the 104th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 49-5-69.1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 fingerprint and preliminary records check for foster homes, so as to provide that an employee
3 of an early care and education program who has received a satisfactory fingerprint records
4 check determination within the previous 24 months is exempt from submitting applications
5 for an additional background check for purposes of providing care to children placed in a
6 foster home; 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 Code Section 49-5-69.1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to fingerprint
11 and preliminary records check for foster homes, is amended by revising subsection (a) as
12 follows:

13 "(a) No licensed child welfare agency, as defined in subsection (a) of Code Section
14 49-5-12, shall place a child in a foster care home unless the foster parent or parents of the
15 home and other adult persons that reside in the home or provide care to children placed in
16 the home have received a satisfactory preliminary records check determination.
17 Additionally, no child shall continue to be placed in such foster care home unless the foster
18 parent or parents also subsequently receive a satisfactory fingerprint records check
19 determination. A child welfare agency or any applicant for a license for such an agency
20 shall be required to submit to the department a preliminary records check application and
21 a records check application for the foster parent or parents of any foster care home used by
22 the agency and a preliminary records check application for any other adult persons that
23 reside in the home or provide care to children placed in the home. In lieu of such
24 applications, the agency or license applicant may submit evidence, satisfactory to the
25 department, that within the immediately preceding 12 months such foster parent or parents
26 or other adult persons have received a satisfactory fingerprint records check determination

27 or a satisfactory preliminary records check determination. Further, for any adult person
28 that provides care to children placed in the home, in lieu of such applications, the agency
29 or license applicant may submit evidence, satisfactory to the department, that such adult
30 person is an employee of an early care and education program, as defined in Code
31 Section 20-1A-2, and has received a satisfactory fingerprint records check determination
32 pursuant to Article 2 of Chapter 1A of Title 20 that is no more than 24 months old."

33 **SECTION 2.**

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

36 **SECTION 3.**

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