

House Bill 982

By: Representatives Nimmer of the 178th, LaRiccia of the 169th, Ballinger of the 23rd, Corbett of the 174th, Rhodes of the 120th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 11 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to dependency proceedings, so as to change provisions relating to relative searches
3 conducted by DFCS; to change provisions relating to termination of parental rights; to
4 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Article 3 of Chapter 11 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
8 dependency proceedings, is amended by revising subsection (e) of Code Section 15-11-211,
9 relating to relative search by DFCS, as follows:

10 "(e) After the completion of the diligent search required by this Code section, DFCS shall
11 have a continuing duty to search for relatives or ~~other persons who have demonstrated an~~
12 ~~ongoing commitment to a child and~~ fictive kin with whom it may be appropriate to place
13 the alleged dependent child until such relatives or ~~persons~~ fictive kin are found or until
14 such child is placed for adoption unless the court excuses DFCS from conducting a diligent
15 search. If the court finds, within six months of the date of such child's removal from his
16 or her home, that the diligent search efforts by DFCS have not resulted in identification of
17 any relatives or fictive kin who are willing to provide a permanent home for such child, that
18 such child is living with a foster parent in a stable home environment, and that removal of
19 such child from such foster parent would be detrimental to such child's emotional
20 well-being, the court may excuse DFCS from the continuing duty to search for relatives or
21 fictive kin."

22 **SECTION 2.**

23 Said article is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 15-11-233, relating
24 to termination of parental rights and exceptions, as follows:

