

House Bill 553

By: Representatives Dempsey of the 13<sup>th</sup>, Cooper of the 43<sup>rd</sup>, Oliver of the 82<sup>nd</sup>, Welch of the 110<sup>th</sup>, and Houston of the 170<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Sections 35-6-2 and 49-5-281 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to the membership of the State Victim Services Commission and the bill of rights  
3 for foster parents, respectively, so as to delete references to an obsolete entity; to provide for  
4 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Code Section 35-6-2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the membership  
8 of the State Victim Services Commission, is amended by revising subsections (a) and (b) as  
9 follows:

10 "(a) The State Victim Services Commission shall consist of ~~15~~ 14 members as follows:

- 11 (1) The executive director of the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia or his or her  
12 designee;
- 13 (2) The president of the Georgia Sheriffs' Association or his or her designee;
- 14 (3) The executive director of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council or his or her  
15 designee;
- 16 (4) The chairperson of the Georgia Commission on Family Violence or his or her  
17 designee;
- 18 (5) The executive director of the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence or his or  
19 her designee;
- 20 (6) The executive director of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia or his  
21 or her designee;
- 22 (7) The executive director of the Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia or his or her  
23 designee;
- 24 (8) The executive director of the Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority  
25 or his or her designee;

26 ~~(9) The executive director of the Georgia Association of Homes and Services for~~  
 27 ~~Children or his or her designee;~~  
 28 ~~(10)~~(9) The executive director of the Georgia Municipal Association or his or her  
 29 designee;  
 30 ~~(11)~~(10) The executive director of the Georgia Network to End Sexual Assault or his or  
 31 her designee;  
 32 ~~(12)~~(11) A district attorney appointed by the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia;  
 33 ~~(13)~~(12) One member appointed by the Governor;  
 34 ~~(14)~~(13) One member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor; and  
 35 ~~(15)~~(14) One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.  
 36 (b) ~~The term of appointment shall be three years for initial members appointed in~~  
 37 ~~accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (13) and (15) of subsection (a) of this Code~~  
 38 ~~section. The term of appointment shall be two years for initial members appointed in~~  
 39 ~~accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (12) and (14) of subsection (a) of this Code~~  
 40 ~~section.~~ The letter of appointment shall set out the term for which each member is  
 41 appointed. Thereafter, each member shall be appointed for a term of two years, and no  
 42 member may serve more than two consecutive terms. All vacancies shall be filled for the  
 43 unexpired term by an appointee of the original appointing official."

44

## SECTION 2.

45 Code Section 49-5-281 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the bill of  
 46 rights for foster parents, is amended by revising subsection (e) as follows:

47 "(e) The Department of Human Services, in consultation with ~~the representatives of~~  
 48 ~~Georgia Association of Homes and Services for Children and other~~ appropriate provider  
 49 associations and the Adoptive and Foster Parent Association of Georgia, shall develop a  
 50 grievance procedure for dealing with any grievances their foster parents have in response  
 51 to any violation of this article, no later than July 1, 2007. The department shall enforce this  
 52 provision through policies and procedures and through its contracts with providers."

53

## SECTION 3.

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