

House Bill 912

By: Representatives Reeves of the 34th, Fleming of the 121st, Oliver of the 82nd, Wiedower of the 119th, Wilson of the 80th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 5 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 programs and protection for children and youth, so as to authorize foster parents to arrange
3 for short-term babysitting; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal
4 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

7 Chapter 5 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to programs and
8 protection for children and youth, is amended by adding a new Code section to Article 1,
9 relating to children and youth services, to read as follows:

10 "49-5-8.1.

11 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

12 (1) 'Caregiver' means a foster parent with whom a child in foster care has been placed.

13 (2) 'Occasional' means once per week or less on varying days and not exceeding twice
14 per month.

15 (3) 'Short-term' means no more than 72 consecutive hours.

16 (b) A caregiver may arrange for occasional short-term babysitting of a child in foster care
17 placed with such caregiver and allow individuals age 18 or older to supervise such child
18 for purposes including medical or other health care appointments for the caregiver, grocery
19 or other shopping, personal grooming appointments, special occasions for the caregiver or
20 caregivers, foster parent training classes, school related meetings, business meetings, adult
21 social gatherings, or an occasional evening event out for the caregiver or caregivers.

22 (c) A caregiver shall use a reasonable and prudent parent standard in selecting and
23 arranging for appropriate babysitters for occasional short-term babysitting pursuant to this
24 Code section.

25 (d) A caregiver shall make all reasonable efforts to provide the babysitter with the
26 following information before leaving the child with the babysitter for short-term
27 babysitting:

28 (1) Information about the child's emotional, behavioral, medical, and physical condition,
29 if any, necessary to provide care for such child during the short-term babysitting period;

30 (2) Any medication that should be administered to such child in foster care during the
31 short-term babysitting period; and

32 (3) Emergency contact information that is valid for the duration of the short-term
33 babysitting period."

34 **SECTION 2.**

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