

House Bill 178

By: Representatives Bonner of the 72nd, Ballinger of the 23rd, Jones of the 47th, Gaines of the 117th, Bazemore of the 63rd, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 12 of Title 19 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to name
2 change, so as to provide that victims of human trafficking may petition for name change
3 under seal; to provide for a definition; to provide for determination by the court; to provide
4 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 Chapter 12 of Title 19 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to name change,
8 is amended by adding a new paragraph to subsection (a) and revising subsection (c) of Code
9 Section 19-12-1, relating to petition for name change, request by victim of family violence,
10 notice of filing, and consent of minor's parents or guardian, as follows:

11 "(4) 'Human trafficking' means an offense provided for under Code Section 16-5-46."

12 "(c)(1) When a name change is requested by a petitioner who alleges to be a victim of
13 family violence or human trafficking, such petitioner may petition the court to file his or
14 her petition to change his or her name under seal.

15 (2) If the court determines that the petitioner is a victim of family violence or human
16 trafficking, the court may issue an order waiving the requirements of publication as set

(5) The court shall retain all filings made under seal as part of the record."

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.