

House Bill 548

By: Representatives Dempsey of the 13th, Reeves of the 34th, Wade of the 9th, Oliver of the 82nd, and Dubnik of the 29th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 49-5-41 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 persons and agencies permitted access to records, so as to provide for reasonable access to
3 records concerning reports of child abuse to the Administrative Office of the Courts; to
4 provide for agreements with the Division of Family and Children Services to ensure
5 confidentiality; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
6 purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Code Section 49-5-41 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to persons and
10 agencies permitted access to records, is amended in subsection (a) by deleting "and" at the
11 end of paragraph (10), by replacing the period with "; and" at the end of paragraph (11), and
12 by adding a new paragraph to read as follows:

13 "(12) The Administrative Office of the Courts to facilitate data sharing, collection, and
14 analysis of the timeliness, permanency, and safety outcomes of children who have been
15 the subject of dependency actions and actions to terminate parental rights brought
16 pursuant to Articles 3 and 4 of Chapter 11 of Title 15. The Administrative Office of the

17 Courts shall enter into such agreements with the Division of Family and Children
18 Services as may be required to ensure compliance with the federal Health Insurance
19 Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), P.L. 104-191, as amended, and federal
20 regulations governing disclosure of protected health information."

21 **SECTION 2.**

22 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.