

The House Committee on Industry and Labor offers the following substitute to SB 156:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 34 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to labor and industrial
2 relations, so as to provide for the appointment, oath, bond, power, duties, authority, and
3 removal of a chief labor officer; to require the chief labor officer to promptly respond to
4 financial audits; to require the Commissioner of Labor to provide the chief labor officer with
5 staff, resources, information, and records; to provide for automatic repeal; to provide for
6 related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
7 purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Title 34 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to labor and industrial relations,
11 is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

12 "34-2-3.1.

13 (a) There is created the office of the chief labor officer, who shall exercise the authority
14 of the Commissioner of Labor in matters specified in this Code section and whose actions
15 in such matters shall have the same force and effect as the actions of the Commissioner of
16 Labor.

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17 (b) The chief labor officer shall have the power, authority, and duty to provide timely
18 reports and responses to any financial audits of the Department of Labor and any inquiries
19 from the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Lieutenant Governor, the President
20 Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the chairs of the House and Senate Committees on
21 Appropriations.

22 (c) The chief labor officer shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
23 Representatives, subject to confirmation by the Senate Committee on Government
24 Oversight, and shall hold no other state office. He or she shall serve at the pleasure of the
25 Speaker and may be removed by the Speaker upon confirmation by the Senate Committee
26 on Government Oversight. The chief labor officer shall be required to take and subscribe
27 before the Governor an oath to discharge faithfully and impartially the duties of such
28 office, which oath shall be in addition to the oath required of all civil officers.

29 (d) The chief labor officer may be required by the Governor to give bond not to exceed the
30 amount of any bond as may be required for the Commissioner of Labor. The premium on
31 the bond shall be paid as an expense of the Department of Labor.

32 (e) The Commissioner of Labor shall provide the chief labor officer with sufficient staff
33 and resources to enable him or her to fulfill the duties of such office set forth in this Code
34 section.

35 (f) The chief labor officer shall be entitled to the same information and records regarding
36 the Department of Labor as the Commissioner of Labor, and the Commissioner of Labor
37 shall ensure that access to such information and records is timely provided.

38 (g) The chief labor officer shall have standing to file a mandamus action in Fulton County
39 Superior Court if he or she contends that the Commissioner of Labor has abused his or her
40 discretion with respect to the provision of staff, resources, information, or records the
41 Commissioner of Labor is required to provide under this Code section.

42 (h) This Code section shall stand repealed on December 31, 2022, unless continued in
43 effect by the General Assembly prior to that date."

44 **SECTION 2.**

45 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
46 without such approval.

47 **SECTION 3.**

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