

Senate Bill 587

By: Senators Still of the 48th, Dickerson of the 21st, Summers of the 13th, Albers of the 56th, Hufstetler of the 52nd and others

**AS PASSED**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapters 5 and 12 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating  
2 to crimes against the person and offenses against public health and morals, so as to provide  
3 for a court order to locate an alleged victim of child or elder abuse; to provide for the  
4 establishment of an animal cruelty database; to provide for purpose and funding; to require  
5 clerks of court to transmit certain conviction and sentencing information to the Prosecuting  
6 Attorneys' Council of the State of Georgia; to require the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of  
7 the State of Georgia to create, administer, and maintain such database; to provide for  
8 minimum requirements; to provide for reporting and forms; to provide for related matters;  
9 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

12 Chapter 5 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to crimes against  
13 the person, is amended by adding a new subsection to Code Section 16-5-70, relating to  
14 cruelty to children, to read as follows:

15 "(f) Where there is an open investigation relating to an alleged offense in violation of this  
16 Code section, and the child is moved from a known address to an unknown location, the

17 superior court for the county of the known address may grant an order to locate the parent  
18 or guardian of record upon a showing by a law enforcement official an inquiry regarding  
19 the welfare and safety of the child is necessary to complete such investigation."

20 **SECTION 2.**

21 Said chapter is further amended by adding a new subsection to Code Section 16-5-102,  
22 relating to exploitation and intimidation of disabled adults, elder persons, and residents, and  
23 obstruction of investigation, to read as follows:

24 "(d) Where there is an open investigation relating to an alleged offense in violation of this  
25 Code section, and the disabled adult, elder person, or resident is moved from a known  
26 address to an unknown location, the superior court for the county of the known address  
27 may grant an order to locate the guardian of record upon a showing by a law enforcement  
28 official an inquiry regarding the welfare and safety of the disabled adult, elder person, or  
29 resident is necessary to complete such investigation."

30 **SECTION 3.**

31 Chapter 12 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to offenses against  
32 public health and morals, is amended in Article 1, relating to general provisions, by adding  
33 a new subsection to Code Section 16-12-4, relating to cruelty to animals, to read as follows:

34 "(i)(1) Subject to appropriations by the General Assembly or other available funding, by  
35 January 1, 2027, the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of the State of Georgia shall create,  
36 administer, and maintain on its website a state-wide, publicly searchable animal cruelty  
37 database. The primary purpose of such database shall be to assist animal shelters, animal  
38 protection and control agencies, and other organizations and members of the public  
39 involved in animal placement determinations in screening prospective owners and  
40 preventing animals from being placed in dangerous situations. At minimum, such  
41 database shall:

42 (A) List the full names of each individual who has been convicted of or entered a plea  
43 of guilty or nolo contendere to any violation of this Code section or Code Section  
44 16-6-6, 16-7-21.2, 16-11-107, or 16-12-37;

45 (B) Be accessible at no cost; and

46 (C) Be updated no less than monthly.

47 (2) When a person is convicted of an offense identified in subparagraph (A) of  
48 paragraph (1) of this subsection, the clerk of the court shall electronically transmit a copy  
49 of such conviction and sentence to the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of the State of  
50 Georgia within 60 days of entry of such conviction and sentence.

51 (3) The Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of the State of Georgia shall be authorized to  
52 solicit input from state law enforcement and prosecuting attorneys in determining  
53 information to be included in the animal cruelty database. All state law enforcement,  
54 prosecution and corrections agencies, offices, and departments shall cooperate with and  
55 shall provide in a timely manner any information acquired relating to a violation  
56 described in subparagraph (1)(A) of this subsection to the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council  
57 of the State of Georgia to be included in the animal cruelty database in a format  
58 prescribed by such council pursuant to paragraph (3) of this subsection.

59 (4) The Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of the State of Georgia shall be authorized to  
60 create and promulgate a uniform reporting form to be used by state law enforcement,  
61 prosecution and corrections agencies, offices, and departments in reporting information  
62 for inclusion in the animal cruelty database."

63 **SECTION 4.**

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