

Senate Bill 173

By: Senators Hamrick of the 30th and Mullis of the 53rd

AS PASSED

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT**

To amend Chapter 6A of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, so as to change provisions relating to councilmembers' compensation and reimbursement of expenses; to enlarge the council's functions and authority; to change provisions relating to receipts of certain funds; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Chapter 6A of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, is amended by revising Code Section 35-6A-5, relating to councilmembers' compensation and reimbursement of expenses, as follows:

"35-6A-5.

Members of the council shall serve without compensation but shall receive ~~the same expense allowance per day as that received by a member of the General Assembly for each day such member of the council is in attendance at a meeting of such council; for each day of actual attendance of council meetings~~ a daily expense allowance in the amount specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 plus either reimbursement for actual transportation costs while traveling by public carrier or the ~~same legal~~ legal mileage allowance rate for use of a personal car in connection with such attendance ~~as members of the General Assembly receive. Such expense and travel allowance shall be paid in lieu of any per diem, allowance, or other remuneration now received by any such member for such attendance."~~

SECTION 2.

Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 35-6A-7, relating to functions and authority of the council, as follows:

"35-6A-7.

The council is vested with the following functions and authority:

(1) To cooperate with and secure cooperation of every department, agency, or instrumentality in the state government or its political subdivisions in the furtherance of the purposes of this chapter;

(2) To prepare, publish, and disseminate fundamental criminal justice information of a descriptive and analytical nature to all components of the criminal justice system of this state, including law enforcement agencies, the courts, and correctional agencies;

(3) To serve as the state-wide clearing-house for criminal justice information and research;

(4) To maintain a research program in order to identify and define significant criminal justice problems and issues and effective solutions and to publish special reports as needed;

(5) In coordination and cooperation with all components of the criminal justice system of this state, to develop criminal justice legislative proposals and executive policy proposals reflective of the priorities of the entire criminal justice system of this state;

(6) To serve in an advisory capacity to the Governor on issues impacting the criminal justice system of this state;

(7) To coordinate high visibility criminal justice research projects and studies with a state-wide impact, which studies and projects cross traditional system component lines;

(8) To convene periodically state-wide criminal justice conferences involving key executives in the criminal justice system of this state and elected officials for the purpose of developing, prioritizing, and publicizing a policy agenda for the criminal justice system of this state;

(9) To provide for the interaction, communication, and coordination of all components of the criminal justice system of this state for the purpose of improving this state's response to crime and its effects;

(10) To administer gifts, grants, and donations for the purpose of carrying out this chapter;

~~(10)~~(11) To promulgate rules governing the approval of victim assistance programs as provided for in Article 8 of Chapter 21 of Title 15; and

~~(11)~~(12) To do any and all things necessary and proper to enable it to perform wholly and adequately its duties and to exercise the authority granted to it."

SECTION 3.

Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 35-6A-9, relating to preparation of budget requests, appropriations, gifts, grants, and donations of property and services, as follows:

61 "35-6A-9.

62 (a) The council shall prepare a budget request in the same manner as any such request
63 would be prepared by a budget unit under Part 1 of Article 4 of Chapter 12 of Title 45, the
64 'Budget Act,' and a separate appropriation shall be provided for the council in the general
65 appropriations Act.

66 (b) The council ~~is~~ shall be authorized to accept and use gifts, grants, and donations for the
67 purpose of carrying out this chapter. The council ~~is~~ shall also be authorized to accept and
68 use property, both real and personal, and services, for the purpose of carrying out this
69 chapter. Any funds, property, or services received as gifts, grants, or donations shall be
70 kept separate and apart from any funds received by the ~~Office of Planning and Budget~~
71 Georgia Bureau of Investigation; and such funds, property, or services so received ~~by~~ as
72 gifts, grants, or donations shall be the property and funds of the council and, as such, shall
73 not lapse at the end of each fiscal year but shall remain under the control and subject to the
74 direction of the council to carry out this chapter."

75 **SECTION 4.**

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