

House Bill 497

By: Representatives Clark of the 108<sup>th</sup>, Miller of the 62<sup>nd</sup>, Ridley of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Jackson of the 68<sup>th</sup>, and Kendrick of the 95<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 5 of Title 42 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to conditions of detention generally, so as to provide that an inmate be allowed to  
3 dress in plain clothes during trial proceedings; to provide for a penalty; to provide for related  
4 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Article 3 of Chapter 5 of Title 42 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
8 conditions of detention generally, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as  
9 follows:

10 "42-5-58.1.

11 It shall be unlawful for any sheriff, jailer, or other officer to require any person imprisoned  
12 in a penal institution to appear in any court for trial dressed in the uniform or dress of a  
13 prisoner or inmate, or in any uniform or apparel other than ordinary civilian dress, or with  
14 a shaved or clipped head. No person charged with a criminal offense shall be tried in any  
15 court while dressed in the uniform or dress of a prisoner or inmate, or in any uniform or  
16 apparel other than ordinary civilian dress, or with a head shaved or clipped by or under the

H. B. 497

17 direction or requirement of any sheriff, jailer, or other officer, unless the head was shaved  
18 or clipped while such person was serving a term of imprisonment for the commission of  
19 a crime. Any sheriff, jailer, or other officer who violates the provisions of this Code  
20 section shall upon conviction be guilty of a misdemeanor."

21 **SECTION 2.**

22 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.