

House Bill 1061 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Camp of the 135th, Burchett of the 176th, Reeves of the 99th, Gunter of the 8th, Santos of the 117th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 11 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 Juvenile Code, so as to enact the "Mandi Ballinger Act"; to provide for an organizational
3 committee; to provide for the powers, composition, and appointment of such committee; to
4 provide for automatic repeal; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and
5 for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 11 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Juvenile
9 Code, is amended in Article 1, relating to general provisions, by adding a new Code section
10 to read as follows:

11 "15-11-42.

12 (a) This Code section shall be known and may be cited as the 'Mandi Ballinger Act.'

13 (b) There shall be an organizational committee that shall consist of 12 members as follows:

14 (1) The chairperson of the House Committee on Judiciary Juvenile;

15 (2) The chairperson of the Senate Judiciary Committee;

16 (3) The commissioner of juvenile justice or his or her designee;

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17 (4) The president of the Georgia Sheriffs' Association or his or her designee;

18 (5) The executive director of the Administrative Office of the Courts or his or her
19 designee;

20 (6) The executive director of the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of the State of Georgia
21 or his or her designee;

22 (7) The executive director of the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers or
23 his or her designee;

24 (8) The executive director of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council or his or her
25 designee;

26 (9) The director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget or his or her designee;

27 (10) The president of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges or his or her designee;

28 (11) The executive director of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia or his
29 or her designee; and

30 (12) The president of the Georgia Council of Court Administrators or his or her designee.

31 The chairperson of the House Committee on Judiciary Juvenile and the chairperson of the
32 Senate Judiciary Committee shall serve as cochairpersons of the committee. The
33 committee shall meet upon the call of the cochairpersons.

34 (c) The committee may confer with any appropriate subject matter experts, state agencies,
35 and advisory members to the committees as selected by the cochairpersons, including the
36 president of the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police, the executive director of the
37 Georgia Public Safety Training Center, attorneys who regularly practice in the juvenile
38 courts, and advocates for children and youth, on matters relating to implementing raising
39 the juvenile age, including equipment, security, and technological aspects in connection to
40 raising the age of juvenile offenders regarding:

41 (1) Standards and practices of other jurisdictions;

42 (2) The most recent standards promulgated by national standard-setting bodies; and

43 (3) The views of interested persons, government officials, and entities.

44 (d) The committee shall commence no later than September 15, 2026, and shall stand
45 abolished on December 31, 2027.

46 (e) The committee shall provide a detailed written report including all the necessary
47 operational and statutory changes required to include 17 year-old children in the juvenile
48 justice system, including cost estimates for capital outlay, operating expenses, and staffing
49 needs, for each part of the implementation plan. The report shall also include the estimated
50 time required for such proposed implementation as well as any other data, reports,
51 statistical information, and other facts and figures necessary for the successful
52 implementation of such policy. Such report shall be provided to the Governor, the
53 Lieutenant Governor, and the members of the General Assembly not later than
54 December 1, 2027.

55 (f) This Code section shall stand repealed in its entirety on January 1, 2028."

56

SECTION 2.

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