

House Bill 548 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Dempsey of the 13<sup>th</sup>, Reeves of the 34<sup>th</sup>, Wade of the 9<sup>th</sup>, Oliver of the 82<sup>nd</sup>, and Dubnik of the 29<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 49-5-41 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 persons and agencies permitted access to records, so as to provide for reasonable access to  
3 records concerning reports of child abuse to the Administrative Office of the Courts; to  
4 provide for agreements with the Division of Family and Children Services to ensure  
5 confidentiality; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
6 purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Code Section 49-5-41 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to persons and  
10 agencies permitted access to records, is amended in subsection (a) by deleting "and" at the  
11 end of paragraph (10), by replacing the period with "; and" at the end of paragraph (11), and  
12 by adding a new paragraph to read as follows:

13 "(12) The Administrative Office of the Courts to facilitate data sharing, collection, and  
14 analysis of the timeliness, permanency, and safety outcomes of children who have been  
15 the subject of dependency actions and actions to terminate parental rights brought  
16 pursuant to Articles 3 and 4 of Chapter 11 of Title 15. The Administrative Office of the

17 Courts shall enter into such agreements with the Division of Family and Children  
18 Services as may be required to ensure compliance with the federal Health Insurance  
19 Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), P.L. 104-191, as amended, and federal  
20 regulations governing disclosure of protected health information."

21 **SECTION 2.**

22 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.