

House Bill 303

By: Representatives Ballinger of the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Houston of the 170<sup>th</sup>, Holmes of the 129<sup>th</sup>, Smith of the 134<sup>th</sup>, Williams of the 145<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

To amend Article 3 of Chapter 13 of Title 19 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the State Commission on Family Violence, so as to change provisions relating to the terms of commission members and members' qualifications to serve; to provide for expenses; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

Article 3 of Chapter 13 of Title 19 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the State Commission on Family Violence, is amended by revising Code Section 19-13-32, relating to membership, terms, filling of vacancies, and officers, as follows:

"19-13-32.

(a) The State Commission on Family Violence shall consist of 37 members:

(1) Three ex officio members shall be the director of the Division of Family and Children Services of the Department of Human Services, the director of Women's Health Services in the Department of Public Health, and the Attorney General;

(2) Three members shall be members of the House of Representatives and shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(3) Three members shall be members of the Senate and shall be appointed by the President of the Senate;

(4) The remaining members shall be appointed by the Governor as follows:

(A) One judge from each judicial administrative district;

(B) Three advocates for ~~battered women recommended~~ victims of family violence, taking into account recommendations made by groups which have addressed the problem of family violence;

(C) One person with expertise and interest regarding family violence involving persons who are 60 years of age or older;

(D) One person with expertise and interest regarding family violence involving children; and

(E) One representative from each of the following:

- (i) The Administrative Office of the Courts;
- (ii) The Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council;
- (iii) The Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police;
- (iv) The District Attorneys Association of Georgia;
- (v) The State Board of Pardons and Paroles;
- (vi) The Department of Community Supervision;
- (vii) The Georgia Sheriffs' Association;
- (viii) The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council;
- (ix) The Solicitors Association of Georgia;
- (x) The legal aid community;
- (xi) The academic community;
- (xii) A family violence intervention program, as such term is defined in Code Section 19-13-10 Men Stopping Violence; and
- (xiii) A former victim of ~~domestic~~ family violence.

(b) The Governor, Speaker of the House, and President of the Senate shall appoint individuals who are specially qualified to serve on the commission by reason of their experience and knowledge of family violence issues.

(c) Members serving on July 1, ~~1996~~, or 2017, and persons appointed to complete the unexpired terms of members serving ~~on July 1, 1996~~, shall complete the terms for which they were appointed. ~~The term of appointment shall be three years for initial successors to members appointed in accordance with the following provisions of subsection (a) of this Code section: paragraph (2) and divisions (ii), (iv), (vi), (viii), (x), and (xii) of subparagraph (E) of paragraph (4). The term of appointment shall be three years for the initial members appointed in accordance with subparagraphs (a)(4)(C) and (a)(4)(D) of this Code section. Initial successors to judicial members appointed to represent even-numbered judicial administrative districts shall be appointed for terms of three years. Two of the initial successors for members appointed in accordance with subparagraph (a)(4)(B) this Code section shall be appointed for terms of three years. The term of appointment shall be two years for initial successors to all other members except those serving ex officio. The letter of appointment shall set out the term for which each member is appointed. Thereafter, each member shall be appointed for a term of two three years, and no member may shall serve more than two consecutive terms unless he or she is serving in an ex officio capacity. The letter of appointment shall set out the term for which each member is appointed. Each member shall serve until the date his or her successor is appointed. A~~

commission member shall be eligible to serve so long as he or she retains his or her status as the designation for which he or she was appointed, but a vacancy shall be created by operation of law when he or she no longer has such designation. All vacancies shall be filled by the appointing official for the unexpired term by an appointee of the original appointing official. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy may serve an additional two consecutive terms.

(d) The commission shall elect a chairperson, vice chairperson, and a secretary from among its members for terms of ~~two~~ three years, and any member shall be eligible for successive election to such office by the commission.

(e) Legislative members of the commission shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8. Citizen members shall receive a daily expense allowance in the amount specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state employees. Members of the commission who are state officials, other than legislative members, or state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the commission, but they shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties as members of the commission in the same manner as they are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or state employees. The funds necessary for the reimbursement of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative members, and state employees shall come from funds appropriated or otherwise available to their respective departments."

## **SECTION 2.**

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