

Senate Bill 552

By: Senators Halpern of the 39th, Esteves of the 6th, Jones of the 10th, Anderson of the 43rd and Merritt of the 9th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 1 of Title 28 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 general provisions for the General Assembly, so as to require the Office of Legislative
3 Counsel to prepare demographic notes for certain proposed legislation that outline the
4 potential effects of such legislation on disparities within the state; to provide for procedures
5 and limitations regarding such notes; to require the legislative counsel to establish and report
6 additional procedures; to require cooperation by state departments, agencies, and institutions;
7 to authorize the use of funds for training; to provide for legislative findings and declarations;
8 to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
9 other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 Chapter 1 of Title 28 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general
13 provisions for the General Assembly, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as
14 follows:

15 "28-1-18.

16 (a) The General Assembly finds and declares that:

17 (1) The health, safety, and productivity of all communities in this state, including
18 historically marginalized communities, are of the utmost importance;

19 (2) All citizens of this state are harmed by unintended disparities created by legislation;
20 and

21 (3) The use of demographic notes will provide members of the General Assembly with
22 demographic data and other information to assist in proactively identifying possible
23 disparate impacts on historically marginalized communities, allowing for better informed
24 and more intentional decisions with regard to legislative proposals.

25 (b) For purposes of this Code section, the term:

26 (1) 'Demographic note' means a note that uses available data to outline the potential
27 effects of a legislative proposal on disparities within the state and states whether the
28 measure is likely to increase or decrease such disparities, to the extent the data are
29 available.

30 (2) 'Disparities' means differences in economic, employment, health, education, or public
31 safety outcomes between the state population as a whole and subgroups of the state
32 population defined by socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, sexual
33 orientation, disability, geography, veteran status, or any other relevant characteristic for
34 which data are available.

35 (c) Commencing with the 2025 regular session of the General Assembly and during each
36 regular session thereafter, the Office of Legislative Counsel shall prepare demographic
37 notes for bills as specified in this Code section.

38 (d) The Speaker of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the House of
39 Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the minority leader of the Senate may
40 each request the preparation of demographic notes for up to five bills, or more at the
41 discretion of the legislative counsel, per legislative session.

42 (e) Prior to preparing a demographic note, an Office of Legislative Counsel attorney shall
43 meet with the leadership member provided for in subsection (d) of this Code section who

44 is requesting the demographic note and with the sponsor of the bill to discuss whether a
45 demographic note can be practically completed for that bill. If a demographic note cannot
46 be practically completed for a bill, such leadership member may, within the limits specified
47 in subsection (d) of this Code section, request a demographic note for a different bill that
48 can be practically completed.

49 (f) No later than December 1, 2024, the legislative counsel shall develop procedures for
50 requesting, preparing, completing, and updating demographic notes. Such procedures shall
51 be reported in a letter to the Legislative Services Committee.

52 (g) Each state department, agency, and institution shall cooperate with and provide
53 information for a demographic note for a bill in the manner requested by the Office of
54 Legislative Counsel.

55 (h) Such state department, agency, or institution shall meet the deadline established by the
56 Office of Legislative Counsel for providing information in response to a request made
57 pursuant to subsection (g) of this Code section or shall specify the need for additional time
58 to provide the information. If additional time is required to provide such information, the
59 Office of Legislative Counsel shall set a new and reasonable deadline for providing the
60 information.

61 (i) The legislative counsel may seek, accept, and expend gifts, grants, or donations from
62 private or public sources for the purpose of paying for training relating to demographic
63 notes for the Office of Legislative Counsel."

64 **SECTION 2.**

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