

House Bill 1234

By: Representatives Ballinger of the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Hill of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Lumsden of the 12<sup>th</sup>, Gunter of the 8<sup>th</sup>, and Cantrell of the 22<sup>nd</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 15-11-103 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 right to attorney in dependency proceedings, so as to provide for the right to an attorney for  
3 any child receiving extended care services from the Division of Family and Children  
4 Services; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Code Section 15-11-103 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to right to  
8 attorney in dependency proceedings, is amended by revising subsection (b) as follows:  
9 "(b) The court shall appoint an attorney for an alleged dependent child and any child  
10 receiving extended care youth services from DFCS. The appointment shall be made as  
11 soon as practicable to ensure adequate representation of such child and, in any event,  
12 before the first court hearing that may substantially affect the interests of such child."

13 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2**

14 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.