

House Bill 934

By: Representatives Kirby of the 114<sup>th</sup>, Benton of the 31<sup>st</sup>, Dawkins-Haigler of the 91<sup>st</sup>,  
Dickerson of the 113<sup>th</sup>, Stephenson of the 90<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 1 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 general provisions applicable to social services, so as to authorize the Department of Human  
3 Services to provide a separate link or portal on its website providing kinship caregivers with  
4 information and access necessary to apply for public assistance benefits; to provide for  
5 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 1 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general  
9 provisions applicable to social services, is amended by adding a new Code section to read  
10 as follows:

11 "49-1-8.

12 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

13 (1) 'Basic necessities' means water, electricity, gas, power, light, heat, telephone, or other  
14 public utility services.

15 (2) 'Child' means any person under 18 years of age.

16 (3) 'Kinship caregiver' means a grandparent, aunt, uncle, great aunt, great uncle, cousin,  
17 sibling, or close family friend of a child who has assumed responsibility for raising such  
18 child in an informal, noncustodial, or guardianship capacity upon the parents of such  
19 child losing or abdicating the ability to care for or provide basic necessities for such child.

20 (4) 'Parents' means the legal father and the legal mother of a child.

21 (b) The department shall have the authority to provide and shall take all necessary steps  
22 to so provide a separate link or portal on its website which provides access to social  
23 services that is specific to kinship caregivers and the children in their care. Such link or  
24 portal shall provide specific information and access for applying for public assistance  
25 benefits in this state as a kinship caregiver and on behalf of children in the care of a kinship  
26 caregiver."

27

**SECTION 2.**

28 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.