House Bill 245 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)
By: Representatives LaHood of the 175th, Gaines of the 117th, Cooper of the 43rd, Newton of the 123rd, and Holmes of the 129th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to professions and businesses, so as to amend a provision relating to fingerprint and criminal background checks for licensure of physicians, physician assistants, and others; to amend a provision relating to fingerprint and criminal background checks for licensure of podiatrists; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.
Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to professions and businesses, is amended in Code Section 43-34-13, relating to fingerprinting and criminal background checks for health care professionals licensed by the Georgia Composite Medical Board, by revising subsection (b) as follows:

“(b) Any applicant as a health care professional or as an expedited physician licensee shall have satisfactory results from a fingerprint records check report conducted by the Georgia Crime Information Center and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as determined by the board. Application for a license, certificate, or permit under this chapter shall constitute express consent and authorization for the board or its representative to perform a criminal

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background check. Each applicant who submits an application to the board for licensure, certification, or permit agrees to provide the board with any and all information necessary to run a criminal background check, including, but not limited to, classifiable sets of fingerprints. The applicant shall be responsible for all fees associated with the performance of such criminal background check.”

SECTION 2.

Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 43-35-12.1, relating to fingerprint and criminal background checks, as follows:

"43-35-12.1. Any applicant for a license or renewal reinstatement shall have satisfactory results from a fingerprint records check report conducted by the Georgia Crime Information Center and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as determined by the board. Application for a license or reinstatement under this chapter shall constitute express consent and authorization for the board or its representative to perform a criminal background check. Each applicant who submits an application to the board for licensure or reinstatement agrees to provide the board with any and all information necessary to run a criminal background check, including, but not limited to, classifiable sets of fingerprints. The applicant shall be responsible for all fees associated with the performance of such criminal background check.”

SECTION 3.

This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

SECTION 4.

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