House Bill 548 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)
By: Representatives Dempsey of the 13th, Reeves of the 34th, Wade of the 9th, Oliver of the 82nd, and Dubnik of the 29th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Code Section 49-5-41 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to persons and agencies permitted access to records, so as to provide for reasonable access to records concerning reports of child abuse to the Administrative Office of the Courts; to provide for agreements with the Division of Family and Children Services to ensure confidentiality; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Code Section 49-5-41 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to persons and agencies permitted access to records, is amended in subsection (a) by deleting "and" at the end of paragraph (10), by replacing the period with "; and" at the end of paragraph (11), and by adding a new paragraph to read as follows:

"(12) The Administrative Office of the Courts to facilitate data sharing, collection, and analysis of the timeliness, permanency, and safety outcomes of children who have been the subject of dependency actions and actions to terminate parental rights brought pursuant to Articles 3 and 4 of Chapter 11 of Title 15. The Administrative Office of the
Courts shall enter into such agreements with the Division of Family and Children Services as may be required to ensure compliance with the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), P.L. 104-191, as amended, and federal regulations governing disclosure of protected health information.”

SECTION 2.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.