

## **INTRODUCTION**

This is the Georgia Code provision that created the Georgia Council for the Arts. House Bill 264 amended the Code in 2011 to transfer the Georgia Council for the Arts from the Governor's Office Of Management and Budget to the Georgia Department of Economic Development effective July 1, 2011.

## **GEORGIA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS**

### **Georgia Council for the Arts (1986)**

#### **50-12-20.**

The General Assembly finds that the general welfare of the people of the state will be promoted by giving recognition to the arts as a vital part of our culture and heritage; that with increasing leisure time, the practice and enjoyment of the arts are of increasing importance; and that many of our citizens lack the opportunity to view, enjoy, or participate in live theatrical performances, film making, photography, music, opera, dance, art exhibits, examples of fine architecture, and the performing and visual arts. The General Assembly finds that many of our citizens possess talents of an artistic and creative nature which are not currently utilized to the fullest extent; that broadened activity in the arts will increase employment in the state by encouraging additional cultural activity throughout the state, thus utilizing the talents and abilities of many more citizens; and that the standards of artistic performance will be further improved by continuing encouragement and support. The General Assembly, therefore, declares it to be the public policy of this state to encourage the development of the arts.

#### **50-12-21.**

**There is created an arts council to be known as the 'Georgia Council for the Arts,' hereinafter referred to as the council.**

#### **50-12-22.**

**(a) The council shall consist of two members from each congressional district and four members representing the state at large who shall be appointed by the Governor.** All members shall have demonstrated an interest in the arts. Except for certain members who were appointed in 1979, the term of office of each member shall be three years. In 1979, eight members were appointed for terms of office of one year, eight members for terms of two years, and eight members for terms of three years. The initial appointments were made so that no more than one member from each congressional district or two state-at-large members' terms of office would expire in any one year. Vacancies shall be filled for unexpired terms in the same manner as the original appointment. Membership on the council shall be limited to two successive three-year terms, and a member may be reappointed after a lapse of one year. No member initially appointed to one-year or two-year terms of office shall be prohibited from serving two consecutive three-year terms of office.

**(b) Members shall be entitled to reimbursement for expenses incurred in the work of the council when authorized in advance by the director of the Office of Planning and Budget.**

**(c) Active and continuing participation by members of the council is needed. Any**

member who fails to attend three regularly scheduled, consecutive meetings may be removed by the council.

(d) **A chairman shall be appointed annually by the Governor for a term ending on June 30 of the year following such appointment.**

(e) The council shall meet annually, or more often, on the call of the chairman.

#### **50-12-23.**

The council shall advise the Governor through the Office of Planning and Budget concerning methods and programs to:

- (1) Stimulate and encourage the study and development of the arts as well as public interest and participation therein;
- (2) Encourage public interest in the cultural heritage of the state;
- (3) Expand the state's cultural resources;
- (4) Encourage and assist freedom of artistic expression essential for the well-being of the arts;
- (5) Assist the communities and organizations within the state in originating and creating their own cultural and artistic programs; and
- (6) Survey public and private institutions engaged within the state in cultural activities including, but not limited to, architecture, dance, folk arts and applied arts and crafts, literature, music, painting, photography, sculpture, and theater.

#### **50-12-24.**

**The council shall submit an annual report to the Governor** concerning the appropriate methods to encourage participation in and appreciation of the arts in order to meet the legitimate needs and aspirations of persons in all parts of the state.

#### **50-12-25.**

The Office of Planning and Budget shall have the powers and authority necessary to carry out the purposes established by this article, including, but not limited to, the powers:

- (1) **To establish overall policy for grant awards, evaluations, and programs recommended by the council;**
- (2) To hold hearings, make and sign any agreements, and do and perform any acts which may be necessary, desirable, or proper to carry out the purposes of this article;
- (3) To request from any department, division, board, bureau, commission, or other agency of the state such reasonable assistance and data as will enable it properly to carry out its powers and duties;
- (4) To accept, on behalf of the state, any federal funds granted by act of Congress or by executive order for all or any of the purposes of this article; and, upon appropriation by the General Assembly, to expend such funds for the purposes set forth in the appropriations Act;
- (5) To accept any grants, gifts, donations, or bequests for all or any of the purposes of this article;
- (6) To propose methods to encourage private initiative in the arts; and
- (7) To advise and consult with the Governor; the General Assembly; national foundations; and other local, state, and federal departments and agencies on methods to

coordinate and assist existing resources and facilities, with the purpose of fostering artistic and cultural endeavors generally.

**50-12-26.**

The director of the Office of Planning and Budget shall select and appoint such personnel as the director shall determine to be necessary to support the council and the programs undertaken pursuant to this article.