



Why Raise the Age in Georgia? Support HB 462

EMI Georgia Network has been supporting Raise the Age since the first bill, HB 53, was filed in 2017 by Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver. We are now in 2023, and we are still supporting Raise the Age legislation that treats our children as children. While we do not agree with the addition of the gang clause in HB 462, we continue to support raising the age of juvenile court jurisdiction to include 17-year-olds. Therefore, we seek your support .

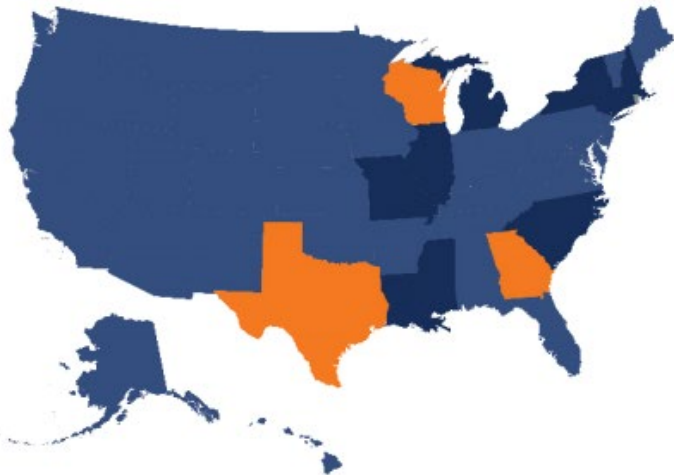


RAISE the **AGE** | **GA**



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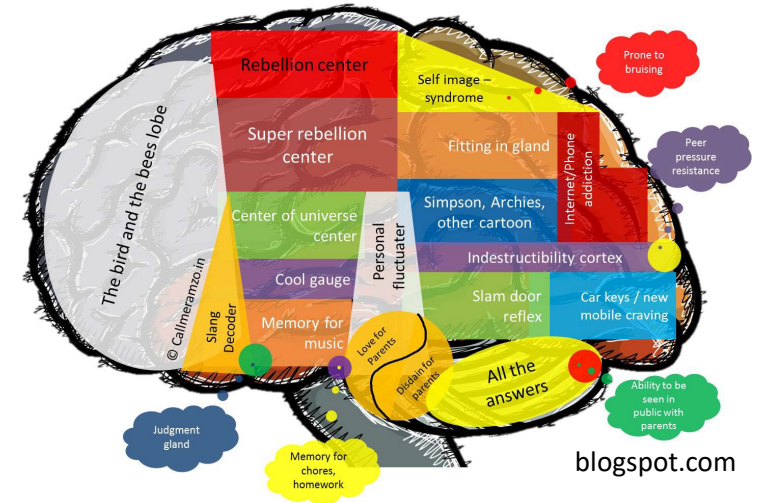
Georgia is one of only three states that has not increased the age of juvenile jurisdiction to age 18. **47 other states** now keep 17-year-olds in the juvenile system. **47 other states** realize that "raise the age" is about prevention, intervention and better outcomes, not about lack of accountability.



- States that have not yet raised the age
- States that have raised the age since 2006

Map courtesy of Voices for Georgia's Children

Anatomy of a Teenage Brain



Studies about brain development support the idea of keeping youth who commit offense in juvenile court until at least age 17. Numerous health experts confirm that the brain's frontal lobe — referred to as the "executive" part of the brain — is not fully developed until the mid-20s. This part of the brain regulates decision-making, planning, judgment and impulse control.



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Current law shuts out parents of 17-year-olds. These children — and their parents — will benefit from the right of parental support as they navigate the court system. In many cases parents do not find out about their child's arrest until it becomes a barrier in college applications.



In juvenile court, a 17-year-old is likely to be mandated to attend school, make restitution to victims and attend community-based rehabilitative programs that focus on the causes of the problem behavior.



Raising the age of jurisdiction will not reduce or minimize current law for youth who are found guilty of committing violent offenses.



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Who do I need to contact?

Contact your State Senator and the Georgia Sheriffs' Association and ask them to support the passage of HB 462.

Your State Senator

Find your legislator:

<https://www.legis.ga.gov/find-my-legislator>

Georgia Sheriffs' Association

Contact us:

<https://georgiasheriffs.org/index.php/about-us/contact-us>

Phone:

770-914-1076

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Visit our "HB 462 Raise the Age" page on our website for what to say when you write or call the Georgia Sheriffs' Association

<https://emiganetwork.org/hb-462-raise-the-age>



GEORGIA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors

2022-2023

Executive Committee

Listing of Sheriffs' Association Board of Directors

Sheriff Jimmy McDuffie, Effingham County, President
Effingham County is a county located in the southeastern part of the U.S. state of Georgia. The county seat is Springfield.

Sheriff Ezell Brown, Newton County, 1st Vice President
Newton County is a county located in the north central portion of the U.S. state of Georgia. The county seat is Covington.

Sheriff Lewis Walker, Crawford County, 2nd Vice President
Crawford County is a county located in the central part of the U.S. state of Georgia. The county seat is Knoxville.

Sheriff Ron Freeman, Forsyth County, Secretary-Treasurer
Forsyth County is a county located in the northeastern portion of the U.S. state of Georgia. The county seat is Cumming.

Sheriff Andy Hester, Turner County, Immediate Past President
Turner County is a county located in the south central portion of the U.S. state of Georgia. The county seat is Ashburn.

GEORGIA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

**Officers
2022-2023**



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Newton County
1st Vice President



Sheriff Lewis Walker
Crawford County
2nd Vice President



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Effingham County
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