



# Why Raise the Age in Georgia? Support HB 272

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 2022 and looking to push HB 272, by Rep. Ballinger, across the finish line. Here are several ways that you can help raise awareness and support for HB 272 "Raise the Age" with your legislators and local sheriff, as well as in your network and community.

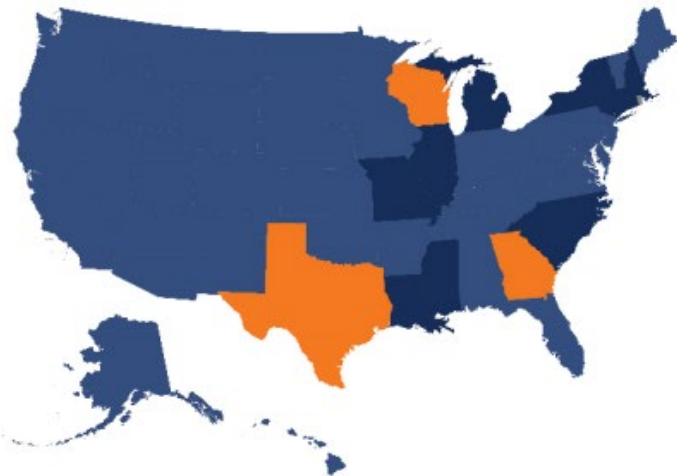


**RAISE** the **AGE** | **GA**

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## Support HB 272

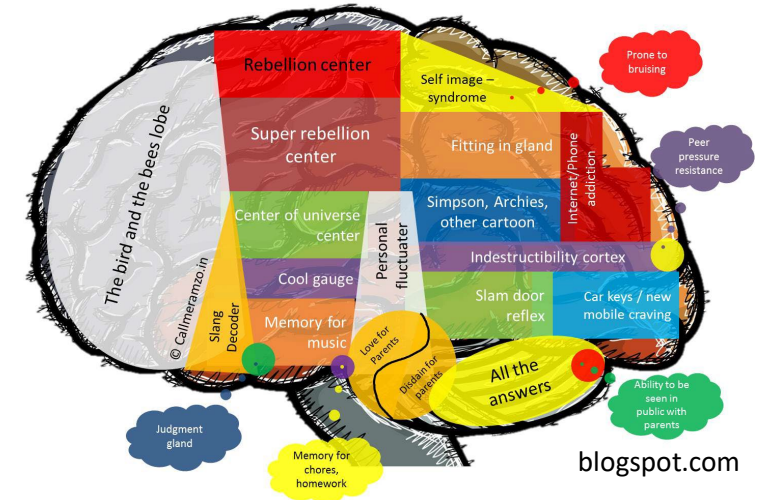
Georgia is one of only three states that has not increased the age of juvenile jurisdiction to age 18. **47 other states** now keep 17-year-olds in the juvenile system. **47 other states** realize that "raise the age" is about prevention, intervention and better outcomes, not about lack of accountability.



- 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 272.*

## 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

# RAISE the AGE | GA

Visit our "HB 272 Raise the Age" page on our website for what to say when you write or call the Georgia Sheriffs' Association.

<https://emiganetwork.org/hb-272-raise-the-age>





**GEORGIA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION**

# Board of Directors

**2021-2022**

## Executive Committee

### Listing of Sheriffs' Association Board of Directors

Sheriff Andy Hester, Turner County, President

Turner County is a county located in the south central portion of the U.S. state of Georgia. The county seat is Ashburn.

Sheriff Neal Jump, Glynn County, 1st Vice President

Glynn County is located in the southeastern part of the U.S. state of Georgia. The county seat is Brunswick.

Sheriff Jimmy McDuffie, Effingham County, 2nd Vice 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, Secretary-Treasurer

Newton County is a county located in the north central portion of the U.S. state of Georgia. The county seat is Covington.

Sheriff Carlton Speed, Banks County, Immediate Past President

Banks County is a county located in the northeastern part of the U.S. state of Georgia. The county seat is Homer.



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