

Senate Bill 37

By: Senators Robertson of the 29th, Albers of the 56th, Hatchett of the 50th, Summers of the 13th, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd and others

AS PASSED

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 16 of Title 15, Chapter 5 of Title 35 Code Section 40-6-6, and
2 Article 1 of Chapter 4 of Title 42 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
3 general provisions regarding sheriffs, the Georgia Public Safety Training Center, authorized
4 emergency vehicles and pursuit of fleeing suspects, and general provisions relative to jails,
5 respectively, so as to allow sheriffs to receive certain additional salaries; to provide for
6 jurisdiction, powers, and duties for peace officers appointed to the Georgia Public Safety
7 Training Center law enforcement unit; to authorize the issuance of motor vehicles, uniforms,
8 and weaponry to such peace officers; to prohibit the use of solid, flashing, or revolving blue
9 lights by law enforcement officers outside the jurisdiction of his or her agency; to provide
10 for exceptions; to provide jailers with arrest powers; to provide for related matters; to repeal
11 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

13 **SECTION 1.**

14 Article 1 of Chapter 16 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
15 general provisions regarding sheriffs, is amended by revising Code Section 15-16-20.1,
16 relating to additional salary, as follows:

17 "15-16-20.1.

18 In addition to the minimum salary provided in Code Section 15-16-20, the sheriff of any
19 county who performs the duties of a sheriff for a state court, probate court, magistrate
20 court, juvenile court, or county recorder's court under any applicable general or local law
21 of this state shall receive for his or her services in such court or courts a salary of not less
22 than \$385.90 per month, to be paid from the funds of the county. A sheriff who serves in
23 more than one such court shall receive ~~only one~~ such salary for up to two courts. Such
24 salaries shall not be eligible for increase for any state cost-of-living or general performance
25 based increases."

26 **SECTION 2.**

27 Chapter 5 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to Georgia Public
28 Safety Training Center, is amended by revising Code Section 35-5-7, relating to security
29 police force for the Georgia Public Safety Training Center, as follows:

30 "35-5-7.

31 (a) The administrator of the center, with the approval of the board, is authorized to
32 establish a ~~security police force~~ law enforcement unit within the Georgia Public Safety
33 Training Center; ~~and appoint employees to serve as peace officers who shall be responsible~~
34 for preserving public order, protecting life and property, and preventing crime. Such
35 employees shall have been certified by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training
36 Council as having successfully completed the course of training required by Chapter 8 of
37 this title, the 'Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Act.'

38 (b) While in the performance of their duties ~~on property of the Georgia Public Safety~~
39 ~~Training Center, such security police,~~ such peace officers shall have the same law
40 enforcement powers, including the power of arrest, as a any other law enforcement officer
41 ~~of the local government with police jurisdiction over such~~ certified pursuant to Chapter 8
42 of this title, the 'Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Act.' The Georgia Public
43 Safety Training Center law enforcement unit shall enforce laws on all properties controlled

44 by the Georgia Public Safety Training Center and enforce state laws and protect life and
45 property when ordered by the Governor or requested by a sheriff of a county or police chief
46 of a county or municipality in this state. Such officers shall be authorized to possess and
47 carry such firearms and other weapons while on duty as may be prescribed by the
48 administrator of the center.

49 (c) From funds appropriated or available to the Georgia Public Safety Training Center, the
50 administrator of the center shall be authorized to provide motor vehicles, uniforms,
51 firearms, and any other equipment and supplies to employees of the Georgia Public Safety
52 Training Center law enforcement unit necessary to carry out the provisions of this Code
53 section.

54 (d) This Code section shall not repeal, supersede, alter, or affect the power of any other
55 law enforcement officer of this state or of any county, municipality, or other political
56 subdivision of this state."

57 **SECTION 3.**

58 Article 1 of Chapter 4 of Title 42 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
59 general provisions relative to jails, is amended by revising Code Section 42-4-1, relating to
60 appointment of county and municipal jailers, as follows:

61 "42-4-1.

62 (a) By virtue of their offices, sheriffs are jailers of the counties and have the authority to
63 appoint other jailers, subject to the supervision of the county governing authority, as
64 prescribed by law.

65 (b) By virtue of their offices, chiefs of police are the jailers of the municipal corporations
66 and have the authority to appoint other jailers, subject to the supervision of the municipal
67 governing authority, as prescribed by law. Each jailer of a municipal corporation shall
68 maintain the records required of sheriffs by subsection (a) of Code Section 42-4-7.

69 (c) Jailers who have been certified by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training
70 Council as having successfully completed the course of training required by Chapter 8 of
71 Title 35, the 'Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Act,' shall be authorized to
72 arrest any person found to be in violation of a criminal law that occurs within the jail or
73 within the perimeter guard lines of such jail established pursuant to subsection (j) of Code
74 Section 42-4-13. Jailers shall be further authorized to exercise arrest powers upon any
75 person for whom a complaint or arrest warrant is pending who surrenders into custody at
76 his or her jail."

77 **SECTION 4.**

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