

The House Committee on Special Judiciary offers the following substitute to HB 1556:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 2 of Article 2 of Chapter 6 of Title 17 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to professional bondsmen, so as to provide that the sheriff of a county
3 shall require any professional bondsman seeking to operate in such county to initiate a
4 criminal background investigation of such person; to provide for the submission of
5 fingerprints to the Georgia Crime Information Center and the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
6 to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

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9 Part 2 of Article 2 of Chapter 6 of Title 17 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
10 relating to professional bondsmen, is amended by inserting at the end of Code Section
11 17-6-50, relating to persons deemed professional bondsmen, a new subsection to read as
12 follows:

13 "(c) The sheriff of the county in which the bonding business is conducting business or is
14 seeking approval to conduct business shall initiate a criminal background investigation to
15 ensure that a professional bondsman has not been convicted of a felony or a crime
16 involving moral turpitude in this state or any other jurisdiction. The sheriff shall require the
17 professional bondsman to furnish two full sets of fingerprints which the sheriff shall submit
18 to the Georgia Crime Information Center. The center shall submit a full set of fingerprints
19 to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history record check."

SECTION 2.

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21 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
22 without such approval.

SECTION 3.

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24 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.