

Senate Bill 133

By: Senators Jackson of the 50<sup>th</sup>, Smith of the 25<sup>th</sup>, Ragan of the 11<sup>th</sup> and Marable of the 52<sup>nd</sup>

**AS PASSED SENATE**

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT**

To amend Part 1 of Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 46 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions regarding telephone service, so as to provide that it shall be unlawful for any person by means of telephone communication to verbally harass or use obscene, vulgar, profane, abusive, or threatening language to a communications officer in the performance of his or her duties; to provide that it shall be unlawful for any person to physically harass or obstruct a communications officer in the performance of his or her duties; to provide for a definition; to provide for penalties; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

**SECTION 1.**

Part 1 of Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 46 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions regarding telephone service, is amended by adding a new Code Section 46-5-21.1 to read as follows:

"46-5-21.1.

(a) As used in this Code section, the term 'communications officer' means and includes any person employed by a local governmental agency to receive, process, or transmit public safety information and dispatch law enforcement officers, firefighters, medical personnel, or emergency management personnel.

(b)(1) It shall be unlawful for any person by means of telephone communication to verbally harass or use obscene, vulgar, profane, abusive, or threatening language to a communications officer in the performance of his or her duty. No person shall be convicted of a violation of this paragraph on the uncorroborated testimony of the party to whom the harassment or language is communicated.

(2) Any person who violates paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

1 (c)(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to physically harass or obstruct a  
2 communications officer in the performance of his or her duty.

3 (2) Any person who violates paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be guilty of a felony  
4 and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$5,000.00 or  
5 imprisonment for not less than one nor more than five years, or both."

6 **SECTION 2.**

7 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.