

The House Committee on Public Safety offers the following substitute to HB 304:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 3 of Article 4 of Chapter 11 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to carrying and possession of firearms, so as to eliminate victim
3 disarmament zones; to change the provisions relating to the offense of carrying a deadly
4 weapon to or at a public gathering; to provide an exception to the offense of carrying a
5 deadly weapon to or at a public gathering with respect to the carrying of a firearm or knife
6 to or while at a public gathering if the person carrying such weapon is licensed under Code
7 Section 16-11-129; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 SECTION 1.

10 Part 3 of Article 4 of Chapter 11 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
11 relating to carrying and possession of firearms, is amended by striking in its entirety Code
12 Section 16-11-127, relating to carrying deadly weapons to or at public gatherings, and
13 inserting in lieu thereof a new Code Section 16-11-127 to read as follows:

14 "16-11-127.

15 (a) Except as provided in Code Section 16-11-127.1, a person is guilty of a misdemeanor
16 when he or she carries to or while at a public gathering any explosive compound, firearm,
17 or knife designed for the purpose of offense and defense; provided, however, that the
18 provisions of this subsection shall not apply to a person who carries a firearm or knife to
19 or while at a public gathering, other than a courthouse or an establishment at which
20 alcoholic beverages are sold for consumption on the premises and more than 50 percent of
21 revenues are generated by such sale of alcoholic beverages, if such person is licensed to
22 carry a pistol or revolver pursuant to the provisions of Code Section 16-11-129.

23 (b) For the purpose of this Code section, 'public gathering' shall include, but shall not be
24 limited to, athletic or sporting events, churches or church functions, political rallies or
25 functions, publicly owned or operated buildings, or establishments at which alcoholic
26 beverages are sold for consumption on the premises. Nothing in this Code section shall

1 otherwise prohibit the carrying of a firearm in any other public place by a person licensed
2 or permitted to carry such firearm by this part.

3 (c) This Code section shall not apply to competitors participating in organized sport
4 shooting events. Law enforcement officers, peace officers retired from state or federal law
5 enforcement agencies, judges, magistrates, solicitors-general, and district attorneys may
6 carry pistols in publicly owned or operated buildings."

7 **SECTION 2.**

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