

Senate Bill 243

By: Senators Smith of the 52nd, Mullis of the 53rd, Bowen of the 13th, Tolleson of the 18th, Kemp of the 46th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 3 of Title 38 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 emergency management, so as to provide that the Georgia Emergency Management Agency  
3 shall establish and maintain a standardized, verifiable, performance-based unified incident  
4 command system; to provide for the development of and instruction in such command  
5 system; to provide for the implementation of such command system; to provide penalties for  
6 local agencies that do not establish such command system by December 31, 2004; to provide  
7 for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Chapter 3 of Title 38 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to emergency  
11 management, is amended by adding a new Code Section 38-3-57 to read as follows:

12 "38-3-57.

13 (a) The Georgia Emergency Management Agency shall establish and maintain, in  
14 collaboration with all appropriate state agencies and volunteer organizations with  
15 emergency support function roles, a standardized, verifiable, performance-based unified  
16 incident command system.

17 (b) Such system shall be consistent with the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan and shall  
18 be utilized in response to emergencies and disasters referenced in the Georgia Emergency  
19 Operations Plan, including Presidentially declared disasters and states of emergency issued  
20 by the Governor.

21 (c) The Georgia Emergency Management Agency, in cooperation with the Georgia Public  
22 Safety Training Center, shall develop a course of instruction for use in training and  
23 certifying emergency response personnel in unified incident command.

24 (d) All local public safety and emergency response organizations, including emergency  
25 management agencies, law enforcement agencies, fire departments, and emergency medical

1 services, shall implement the standardized unified incident command system provided for  
2 in subsection (a) of this Code section by December 21, 2004.

3 (e) Local agencies that have not established such system by December 31, 2004, shall not  
4 be eligible for state reimbursement for any response or recovery related expenses."

5 **SECTION 2.**

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