

The House Committee on Special Judiciary offers the following substitute to HB 1185:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 1 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 general provisions relative to game and fish, so as to change certain provisions relating to
3 inspection of vessels and boats; to amend Code Section 52-7-25 of the Official Code of
4 Georgia Annotated, relating to enforcement of general provisions relative to registration,
5 operation, and sale of watercraft, so as to change certain provisions relating to powers of
6 enforcement officers; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 1 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general
10 provisions relative to game and fish, is amended by striking Code Section 27-1-24, relating
11 to inspection of vessels and boats, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

12 "27-1-24.

13 The provisions of this title or any rule or regulation adopted pursuant to this title pertaining
14 to the operation of vessels or boats upon the waters of this state shall be enforceable by, in
15 addition to conservation rangers, agents of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and other
16 persons having responsibility to preserve the peace and enforce the laws of this state. Such
17 persons shall have the authority to order any vessel or boat within the boundaries of this
18 state to stop and lay to and shall have the authority to board, inspect, and examine the
19 vessel or boat, its equipment, the wildlife on board, if any, and such documents, licenses,
20 or other records which the vessel or boat is required to possess under this title and Code
21 Sections 52-7-1 through 52-7-25 for the purpose of determining compliance with the
22 provisions of such laws; but the ranger, agent, or other authorized person shall have such
23 authority to board, inspect, and examine only if the owner or operator has given express
24 consent thereto or if the ranger, agent, or other authorized person has probable cause to
25 believe a violation of a law, rule, or regulation which he or she is authorized to enforce has
26 been committed by the owner or operator of or passenger in such vessel or boat."

