

Senate Bill 596

By: Senators Hudgens of the 47th, Cagle of the 49th, Seabaugh of the 28th and Thomas of the 54th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 1 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 general provisions relative to state government, so as to require the presentation of secure
3 and verifiable documents for purposes of providing governmental services and performing
4 governmental functions in certain cases; to provide a short title; to repeal conflicting laws;
5 and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Secure and Verifiable Identity Document
9 Act."

10 **SECTION 2.**

11 Chapter 1 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general
12 provisions relative to state government, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as
13 follows:

14 "50-1-8.

15 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

16 (1) 'Children' has the meaning provided by 42 U.S.C. Section 1786 (b).

17 (2) 'Infants' has the meaning provided by 42 U.S.C. Section 1786(b).

18 (3) 'Public entity' means a department, agency, board, commission, bureau, authority, or
19 political subdivision of this state.

20 (4) 'Public official' means an elected or appointed official, employee, or agent of a public
21 entity.

22 (5) 'Secure and verifiable document' means a document issued by the federal government
23 of the United States, issued by the government of any one of the several United States,
24 or recognized by the government of the United States and that is verifiable by federal or
25 state law enforcement, intelligence, or homeland security agencies.

1 (b) A public entity that provides services shall not accept, rely upon, or utilize an
2 identification document for purposes of providing services unless it is a secure and
3 verifiable document.

4 (c) A public entity that is issuing an identification card, license, permit, or other official
5 document for which an identification document is required shall not authorize acceptance
6 of an identification document, nor shall a public official acting in an official capacity
7 accept an identification document before issuing such documents, unless such identification
8 document is a secure and verifiable document.

9 (d) Actions taken in knowing violation of this Code section shall not be within the scope
10 of a public official's official duties or employment for purposes of any immunity from suit,
11 including without limitation immunity under subsection (a) of Code Section 50-21-25.

12 (e) This Code section shall not apply to:

13 (1) Any person reporting a crime;

14 (2) Any public entity or official:

15 (A) Accepting a crime report;

16 (B) Conducting a criminal investigation;

17 (C) Accepting an application for the provision of services or providing services to
18 infants and children born in the United States pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Section 1786; or

19 (D) Providing emergency medical service; or

20 (3) Instances when a federal law mandates acceptance of a document."

21 **SECTION 3.**

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