

Senate Bill 607

By: Senator Tanksley of the 32nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Chapter 11 of Title 51 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to defenses to a tort action, so as to allow public safety employees to bring a civil action for injuries received under certain circumstances; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date and applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Chapter 11 of Title 51 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to defenses to a tort action, is amended by adding a new Code section immediately following Code Section 51-11-2, relating to the effect of consent, to be designated Code Section 51-11-2.1 to read as follows:

"51-11-2.1.

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

(1) 'Public safety employee' means an emergency medical technician, firefighter, or law enforcement officer, as such terms are defined in Code Section 45-9-81.

(2) 'In the line of duty' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code Section 45-9-81.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, a public safety employee or his or her family member may file a civil action for personal injuries received by the public safety employee in a motor vehicle accident caused by the negligent operation of a motor vehicle by a third party when the public safety employee is injured in the line of duty."

SECTION 2.

This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval. This Act shall apply only to causes of action arising on or after the

1 effective date of this Act. Any cause of action arising prior to that date shall continue to be
2 governed by the laws in effect at the time such cause of action arose.

3 **SECTION 3.**

4 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.