

The Senate Judiciary Committee offered the following substitute to SB 414:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 17-8-71 to the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 order of argument after evidence is introduced in a criminal trial, so as to provide that the
3 prosecuting attorney shall always conclude the argument to the jury; to repeal conflicting
4 laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

6 Code Section 17-8-71 to the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the order of
7 argument after evidence is introduced in a criminal trial, is amended by striking said Code
8 section in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:
9

10 "17-8-71.

11 After the evidence is closed on both sides, the prosecuting attorney shall ~~open and~~ conclude
12 the argument to the jury. ~~If the defendant introduces no evidence, his counsel shall open~~
13 ~~and conclude the argument to the jury after the evidence on the part of the state is closed."~~

14 **SECTION 2.**

15 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.