

Senate Bill 414

By: Senators Brush of the 24th and Cheeks of the 23rd

AS PASSED SENATE

**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:**

6 **SECTION 1.**

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

10 "17-8-71.

11 Closing arguments proceed in the following order: (1) the government argues; (2) the
12 defense argues; and (3) the government may rebut. ~~and conclude the argument to the jury~~
13 ~~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15 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.