

Senate Bill 223

By: Senators Harbison of the 15th, Johnson of the 1st and Brown of the 26th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 3 of Title 38 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 emergency management, so as to provide for the development and implementation of a  
3 state-wide first responder building mapping information system; to provide legislative  
4 findings and declarations; to provide for definitions; to provide for grants to local  
5 governments; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for immunity; to repeal  
6 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 The General Assembly recognizes the extreme dangers present when the safety of our  
10 citizens requires first responders such as police and fire fighters to evacuate and secure a  
11 building. In an effort to prepare for responding to disasters, criminal acts, and acts of  
12 terrorism, the General Assembly intends to create a state-wide first responder building  
13 mapping information system that will provide all first responders with the information they  
14 need to be successful when disaster strikes. The first responder building mapping system in  
15 this Act is to be developed for a limited and specific purpose and is in no way to be construed  
16 as imposing standards or system requirements on any other mapping systems developed and  
17 used for any other local government purposes.

18 **SECTION 2.**

19 Chapter 3 of Title 38 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to emergency  
20 management, is amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

21 "ARTICLE 7

22 38-3-100.

23 As used in this article, the term:

1 (1) 'Agency' means the Georgia Emergency Management Agency established by Code  
2 Section 38-3-20.

3 (2) 'Director' means the director of the agency.

4 38-3-101.

5 (a) Subject to availability of funds for such purposes, the agency shall create and operate  
6 a state-wide first responder building mapping information system and may make grants to  
7 local governments for purposes of this article.

8 (b) All state departments and agencies and all local governments shall utilize building  
9 mapping software that complies with the building mapping software standards established  
10 under Code Section 38-3-102 for any building mapped for this purpose after the state-wide  
11 first responder building mapping information system is operational. If, prior to creation of  
12 the state-wide building mapping information system, a local government has utilized  
13 building mapping software standards established under Code Section 38-3-102, the local  
14 government may continue to use its own building mapping system unless the agency  
15 provides funding to bring the local government's system into compliance with the  
16 standards established under Code Section 38-3-102.

17 (c) All state and local government owned buildings that are occupied by state or local  
18 government employees shall be mapped when funding is provided by the agency or  
19 available from other sources for such purpose. Nothing in this article requires any state  
20 department or agency or local government to map a building unless the entire cost of  
21 mapping the building is covered or provided by the agency or available from other sources.

22 (d) Once the state-wide first responder building mapping information system is  
23 operational, all state and local governments owning or operating buildings that are mapped  
24 shall forward their building mapping information data to the agency. Any private entity or  
25 department or agency of federal government that desires to participate in the system may  
26 voluntarily forward their building mapping and emergency information data to the agency.  
27 The agency may refuse any building mapping information that does not comply with the  
28 specifications described in Code Section 38-3-102.

29 (e) Consistent with the rules and regulations promulgated under Code Section 38-3-102,  
30 the agency shall electronically make the building mapping information available to all  
31 state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies, the Georgia Department of Defense, and  
32 public fire departments.

33 (f) Consistent with the rules and regulations promulgated under Code Section 38-3-102,  
34 the agency shall develop building mapping software standards that shall be used for  
35 purposes of participation in the state-wide first responder building mapping information  
36 system.

1 (g) The agency shall pursue federal funds to:

2 (1) Create the state-wide first responder building mapping information system; and

3 (2) Develop grants for the mapping of local government buildings in the order  
4 determined under Code Section 38-3-102.

5 (h) Information provided to the agency under this article shall be exempt from public  
6 disclosure to the extent provided in paragraph (15) of subsection (a) of Code Section  
7 50-18-72.

8 38-3-102.

9 (a) In consultation with the Department of Public Safety, Georgia Building Authority,  
10 Georgia Technology Authority, Georgia Sheriffs Association, Georgia Association of  
11 Chiefs of Police, Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs, Association County Commissioners  
12 of Georgia, and Georgia Municipal Association, the director shall adopt rules and  
13 regulations related to the state-wide first responder building mapping information system.  
14 Such rules and regulations shall:

15 (1) Specify the type of information to be included in the state-wide first responder  
16 building mapping information system. The information shall include without limitation  
17 floor plans, fire protection information, evacuation plans, utility information, known  
18 hazards, and text and digital images showing emergency personnel contact information;

19 (2) Include building mapping software standards that shall be utilized by all entities  
20 participating in the state-wide first responder building mapping information system;

21 (3) Determine the order in which buildings shall be mapped when funding is received;  
22 and

23 (4) Include guidelines on how the information shall be made available. Such guidelines  
24 shall include detailed procedures and security systems to ensure that the information is  
25 only made available to the government entity that either owns or operates the building or  
26 is responding to an incident at the building.

27 (b) The agency shall recommend training guidelines regarding use of the state-wide first  
28 responder building mapping information system to the Peace Officer Standards and  
29 Training Council and the Georgia Firefighters Standards and Training Council.

30 (c) Nothing in this Code section supersedes the authority of state departments and agencies  
31 and local governments to control and maintain access to information within their  
32 independent systems.

33 38-3-103.

34 Units of local government and their employees shall be immune from civil liability for any  
35 damages arising out of the creation and use of the state-wide first responder building

1 mapping information system unless it is shown that an employee acted with gross  
2 negligence or bad faith."

3 **SECTION 3.**

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