

House Bill 1320

By: Representatives Smith of the 70th, Burkhalter of the 50th, Ralston of the 7th, Willard of the 49th, Rice of the 51st, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To extensively revise various provisions relating to littering and related environmental
2 offenses; to provide a short title; to amend Article 2 of Chapter 7 of Title 16 of the Official
3 Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to criminal trespass and damage to property, so as to
4 change certain provisions relating to littering public and private property; to change certain
5 provisions relating to waste control; to provide for impoundment of vehicles involved in
6 certain littering offenses; to amend Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of
7 Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions relative to elections and primaries
8 generally, so as to change certain provisions relating to prohibited placement of campaign
9 posters, signs, and advertisements; to amend Chapter 8 of Title 12 of the Official Code of
10 Georgia Annotated, relating to waste management, so as to change certain provisions relating
11 to definitions relative to solid waste; to provide for reports by the Department of Community
12 Affairs concerning prevention and abatement of litter; to change certain provisions relating
13 to definitions relative to hazardous waste management; to change certain provisions relating
14 to definitions relative to hazardous site response; to amend of Title 15 of the Official Code
15 of Georgia Annotated, relating to courts, so as to provide for jurisdiction of certain courts
16 over littering offenses; to amend Title 17 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating
17 to criminal procedure, so as to provide for trial of certain littering offenses upon a summons
18 or citation without an accusation; to change certain provisions relating to acceptance of cash
19 bonds in lieu of statutory bond or recognizance by officers or officials authorized to enforce
20 the "Litter Control Law"; to change certain provisions relating to securing loads on vehicles;
21 to change certain provisions relating to erection, placement, or maintenance of an unlawful
22 or unauthorized structure and removal thereof; to amend Chapter 6 of Title 32 of the Official
23 Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to regulation of maintenance and use of public roads
24 generally, so as to change certain provisions relating to littering highways; to amend Article
25 1 of Chapter 32 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general
26 provisions relative to municipal courts, so as to provide for jurisdiction over littering
27 offenses; to amend Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to motor
28 vehicles and traffic, so as to change certain provisions relating to suspension or revocation

1 of drivers' licenses of habitually negligent or dangerous drivers and the points system; to
 2 provide for editorial revisions; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

4 **PART I**

5 **SECTION 1-1.**

6 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Comprehensive Litter Prevention and
 7 Abatement Act of 2006."

8 **PART II**

9 **SECTION 2-1.**

10 Article 2 of Chapter 7 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
 11 criminal trespass and damage to property, is amended by striking Part 2, relating to littering
 12 public and private property, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

13 "Part 2

14 16-7-40.

15 ~~This part shall be known and may be cited as the 'Litter Control Law.'~~ Reserved.

16 16-7-41.

17 ~~Repeated.~~ Reserved.

18 16-7-42.

19 As used in this part, the term:

20 (1) 'Litter' means ~~all discarded sand, gravel, slag, brickbats, rubbish, waste material, tin~~
 21 ~~cans, refuse, garbage, trash, debris, dead animals, or other discarded materials of every~~
 22 ~~kind and description which are not waste as such term is defined in paragraph (6) of Code~~
 23 ~~Section 16-7-51~~ any discarded or abandoned:

24 (A) Refuse, rubbish, junk, or other waste material; or

25 (B) Dead animals that are not subject to the provisions of Code Section 4-5-4.

26 (2) 'Public or private property' means the right of way of any road or highway; any body
 27 of water or watercourse or the shores or beaches thereof; any park, playground, building,
 28 refuge, or conservation or recreation area; ~~and~~ residential or farm properties, timberlands,
 29 or forests; or any commercial or industrial property.

1 16-7-43.

2 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to dump, deposit, throw, or leave or to
3 cause or permit the dumping, depositing, placing, throwing, or leaving of litter on any
4 public or private property in this state or any waters in this state, unless:

5 (1) The ~~property area~~ is designated by the state or by any of its agencies or political
6 subdivisions for the disposal of litter and the person is authorized by the proper public
7 authority to ~~so~~ use such ~~property area~~;

8 (2) The litter is placed into a nondisposable litter receptacle or container ~~installed on~~
9 ~~such property~~ designed for the temporary storage of litter and located in an area
10 designated by the owner or tenant in lawful possession of the property; or

11 (3) The person is the owner or tenant in lawful possession of such property or has first
12 obtained consent of the owner or tenant in lawful possession or unless the act is done
13 under the personal direction of the owner or tenant, all in a manner consistent with the
14 public welfare.

15 (b) Any person who violates subsection (a) of this Code section shall be guilty of a
16 misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished as follows:

17 (1) By a fine of not less than \$200.00 nor more than \$1,200.00; and

18 (2)(A) In the sound discretion of the court, the person may be directed to pick up and
19 remove from any public street or highway or public right of way for a distance not to
20 exceed one mile any litter the person has deposited and any and all litter deposited
21 thereon by anyone else prior to the date of execution of sentence; or

22 (B) In the sound discretion of the judge of the court, the person may be directed to pick
23 up and remove from any public beach, public park, private right of way, or, with the
24 prior permission of the legal owner or tenant in lawful possession of such property, any
25 private property upon which it can be established by competent evidence that the person
26 has deposited litter, any and all litter deposited thereon by anyone prior to the date of
27 execution of sentence.

28 (c)(1) ~~The court may publish the names of persons~~ cause to be published a notice of
29 conviction for each person convicted of violating subsection (a) of this Code section.
30 Such notices of conviction shall be published in the manner of legal notices in the legal
31 organ of the county in which such person resides or, in the case of a nonresident, in the
32 legal organ of the county in which the person was convicted. Such notice of conviction
33 shall contain the name and address of the convicted person; date, time, and place of
34 arrest; and disposition of the case and shall be published once in the legal organ of the
35 appropriate county in the second week following such conviction or as soon thereafter
36 as publication may be made.

1 (2) The convicted person for which a notice of conviction is published pursuant to this
 2 subsection shall be assessed for the cost of publication of such notice, and such
 3 assessment shall be imposed at the time of conviction in addition to any other fine
 4 imposed pursuant to this Code section.

5 (3) The clerk of the court, the publisher of any legal organ which publishes a notice of
 6 conviction, and any other person involved in the publication of an erroneous notice of
 7 conviction shall be immune from civil or criminal liability for such erroneous publication,
 8 provided such publication was made in good faith.

9 (d) Any county, municipality, consolidated government, or law enforcement agency
 10 thereof of this state which is empowered by Code Section 16-7-45 or other law to enforce
 11 the provisions of this Code section or local littering ordinances may, in its discretion,
 12 appoint any person who is a citizen of the United States, is of good moral character, and
 13 has not previously been convicted of a felony to enforce the provisions of this Code section
 14 or local littering ordinances within the county, ~~or municipality,~~ or consolidated government
 15 in which the appointing agency exercises jurisdiction. Each person appointed pursuant to
 16 this Code section shall take and subscribe an oath of office as prescribed by the appointing
 17 authority. Any person appointed and sworn pursuant to this subsection shall be authorized
 18 to enforce the provisions of this Code section or local littering ordinances in the same
 19 manner as any employee or law enforcement officer of this state or any county, ~~or~~
 20 municipality, or consolidated government of this state subject to the limitations provided
 21 in subsections (e) and (f) of this Code section.

22 (e) No person appointed pursuant to subsection (d) of this Code section shall be deemed
 23 a peace officer under the laws of this state or:

24 (1) Be deemed to be an employee of or receive any compensation from the state, county,
 25 municipality, consolidated government, or appointing law enforcement agency;

26 (2) Be required to complete any training or be certified pursuant to the requirements of
 27 Chapter 8 of Title 35;

28 (3) Have the power or duty to enforce any ~~other~~ traffic or other criminal laws of the state,
 29 county, ~~or municipality,~~ or consolidated government;

30 (4) Have the power to possess and carry firearms and other weapons for the purpose of
 31 enforcing the littering laws; or

32 (5) Be entitled to any indemnification from the state, county, ~~or municipality,~~ or
 33 consolidated government for any injury or property damage sustained by such person as
 34 a result of attempting to enforce the littering laws of this state or any local government.

35 (f) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, neither the state nor any county, municipality,
 36 or ~~other political subdivision~~ consolidated government of this state or any department,
 37 agency, board, or officer of this state or any county, municipality, ~~or political subdivision~~

1 consolidated government of this state shall be liable or accountable for or on account of any
 2 act or omission of any person appointed pursuant to this Code section in connection with
 3 such person's enforcement of the provisions of this Code section or local littering
 4 ordinances.

5 (g) It shall be unlawful for any person willfully to obstruct, resist, impede, or interfere with
 6 any person appointed pursuant to this Code section in connection with such person's
 7 enforcement of this Code section or local littering ordinances or to retaliate or discriminate
 8 in any manner against such person as a reprisal for any act or omission of such person.
 9 Any violation of this subsection shall be punishable as a misdemeanor.

10 16-7-44.

11 (a) Whenever litter is thrown, deposited, dropped, or dumped from any motor vehicle,
 12 boat, airplane, or other conveyance in violation of Code Section 16-7-43, ~~it shall be~~
 13 ~~prima-facie evidence~~ the trier of fact may in its discretion infer that the operator of the
 14 conveyance has violated this part.

15 (b) Except as provided in subsection (a) of this Code section, whenever any litter which
 16 is dumped, deposited, thrown, or left on public or private property in violation of Code
 17 Section 16-7-43 is discovered to contain any article or articles, including but not limited
 18 to letters, bills, publications, or other writings which display the name of a person thereon
 19 in such a manner as to indicate that the article belongs or belonged to such person, ~~it shall~~
 20 ~~be a rebuttable presumption~~ the trier of fact may in its discretion infer that such person has
 21 violated this part.

22 16-7-45.

23 All law enforcement agencies, officers, and officials of this state or any political
 24 subdivision thereof or any enforcement agency, officer, or any official of any commission
 25 or authority of this state or any political subdivision thereof is authorized, empowered, and
 26 directed to enforce compliance with this part.

27 16-7-46.

28 All public authorities and agencies having supervision of properties of this state are
 29 authorized, empowered, and instructed to establish and maintain receptacles for the deposit
 30 of litter at appropriate locations where the property is frequented by the public, to post
 31 signs directing persons to the receptacles and serving notice of the provisions of this part,
 32 and to otherwise publicize the availability of litter receptacles and requirements of this part.

1 16-7-47.

2 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'household garbage' means animal, vegetable,
3 and fruit refuse matter and other refuse matter ordinarily generated as by-products of a
4 household or restaurant, such as tin cans, bottles, paper, cardboard, plastics, and wrapping
5 or packaging materials.

6 (b) The governing authority of each county, municipality, or consolidated government of
7 this state which provides containers for the dumping of trash or garbage therein shall be
8 authorized to designate any or all such containers as being suitable for the dumping therein
9 of household garbage only. If a container is clearly marked 'household garbage only,' it
10 shall be unlawful for any person to dump any refuse or other material into the container
11 other than household garbage.

12 (c) It shall be unlawful for any person to set fire to the contents of, indiscriminately scatter
13 or disperse the contents of, or otherwise vandalize any containers provided by any county,
14 municipality, or consolidated government for the dumping of trash or garbage.

15 (d) Any person who violates subsection (b) or (c) of this Code section shall be guilty of
16 a misdemeanor.

17 16-7-48.

18 (a) Nothing in this part shall limit the authority of any state agency, county, municipality,
19 or consolidated government to enforce any other laws, rules, or regulations relating to litter.

20 (b) Nothing within this part shall be construed to prohibit the adoption of local ordinances
21 regulating and controlling litter within the corporate limits of a municipality jurisdiction
22 of any county, municipality, or consolidated government. Violation of such ordinances
23 shall be punished as provided in the municipal charter or local ordinances."

24 **SECTION 2-2.**

25 Article 2 of Chapter 7 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
26 criminal trespass and damage to property, is amended by striking Part 3, relating to waste
27 control, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

28 "Part 3

29 16-7-50.

30 ~~This part shall be known and may be cited as the 'Waste Control Law.'~~ Reserved.

31 16-7-51.

32 As used in this part, the term:

1 (1) 'Biomedical waste' means that term as defined in paragraph (1.1) of Code Section
2 12-8-22 ~~on January 1, 1993.~~

3 (2) 'Commercial purpose' means for the purpose of economic gain.

4 (3) 'Dump' means to throw, discard, place, deposit, discharge, burn, or dispose of a
5 substance.

6 ~~(6)(4) 'Waste 'Egregious litter' means all discarded substances and materials whatsoever~~
7 ~~litter, as such term is defined in paragraph (1) of Code Section 16-7-42, exceeding ten~~
8 ~~pounds in weight or 15 cubic feet in volume; or any such discarded or abandoned~~
9 ~~substance in any weight or volume if biomedical waste, hazardous waste, or a hazardous~~
10 ~~substance; or any such substance or material dumped for commercial purposes. Such~~
11 ~~term includes, without limitation, sand; gravel; slag; brickbats; rubbish; waste material;~~
12 ~~tin cans; refuse; garbage; trash; debris; dead animals; bottles; boxes; containers; papers;~~
13 ~~tobacco products; tires; appliances; mechanical equipment or parts; building or~~
14 ~~construction materials; tools; machinery; wood; motor vehicles and motor vehicle parts;~~
15 ~~vessels; aircraft equipment; waste oil; batteries; antifreeze; sludge from a waste-water~~
16 ~~treatment facility, water supply treatment plant, or air pollution control facility; air~~
17 ~~contaminants from any source or facility; and any other discarded material or substance~~
18 ~~of every kind and description resulting from domestic, industrial, commercial, mining,~~
19 ~~or governmental operations.~~

20 ~~(4)(5) 'Hazardous substance' means that term as defined in paragraph (4) of Code Section~~
21 ~~12-8-92 on January 1, 1993.~~

22 ~~(5)(6) 'Hazardous waste' means that term as defined in paragraph (10) of Code Section~~
23 ~~12-8-62 on January 1, 1993.~~

24
25 16-7-52.

26 It shall be unlawful for any person to dump waste egregious litter unless authorized to do
27 so by law or by a duly issued permit:

28 (1) In or on any public highway, road, street, alley, or thoroughfare, including any
29 portion of the right of way thereof, or on any other public lands except in containers or
30 areas lawfully provided for such dumping;

31 (2) In or on any fresh-water lake, river, canal, or stream or tidal or coastal water of the
32 state; or

33 (3) In or on any private property, unless prior consent of the owner has been given and
34 unless such dumping will not adversely affect the public health and is not in violation of
35 any other state law, rule, or regulation.

1 16-7-53.

2 (a) Any person who dumps ~~waste~~ egregious litter in violation of Code Section 16-7-52 in
3 an amount not exceeding 500 pounds in weight or 100 cubic feet in volume which is not
4 biomedical waste, hazardous waste, or a hazardous substance and not for commercial
5 purposes shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature. For purposes
6 of this subsection, each day a continuing violation occurs shall constitute a separate
7 violation.

8 (b) Any person who dumps ~~waste~~ egregious litter in violation of Code Section 16-7-52
9 in an amount exceeding 500 pounds in weight or 100 cubic feet in volume which is not
10 biomedical waste, hazardous waste, or a hazardous substance and not for commercial
11 purposes shall upon the first offense be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated
12 nature ~~and shall upon~~. Upon the second and each subsequent offense such person shall be
13 guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$25,000.00 for
14 each violation or imprisoned for not more than ~~two~~ five years, or both; provided, however,
15 that the portion of any term of imprisonment exceeding two years shall be probated
16 conditioned upon payment of a fine imposed under this subsection. For purposes of this
17 subsection, each day a continuing violation occurs shall constitute a separate violation.

18 (c) Any person who dumps ~~waste~~ egregious litter in violation of Code Section 16-7-52 in
19 any quantity if the ~~waste~~ substance is biomedical waste, hazardous waste, or a hazardous
20 substance or if the dumping is for commercial purposes shall be guilty of a felony and,
21 upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$25,000.00 for each violation or
22 imprisoned for not more than ~~two~~ five years, or both; provided, however, that the portion
23 of any term of imprisonment exceeding two years shall be probated conditioned upon
24 payment of a fine imposed under this subsection. For purposes of this subsection, each day
25 a continuing violation occurs shall constitute a separate violation.

26 (d) In addition to the penalties provided in subsections (a) and (b) of this Code section, the
27 court may order the violator to remove or render harmless any ~~waste~~ egregious litter
28 dumped in violation of Code Section 16-7-52, repair or restore property damaged by or pay
29 damages resulting from such dumping, or perform public service related to the removal of
30 illegally dumped ~~waste~~ egregious litter or to the restoration of an area polluted by such
31 ~~waste~~ substance.

32 (e)(1) The court may cause to be published a notice of conviction for each person
33 convicted of violating any provision of this Code section. Such notices of conviction
34 shall be published in the manner of legal notices in the legal organ of the county in which
35 such person resides or, in the case of a nonresident, in the legal organ of the county in
36 which the person was convicted. Such notice of conviction shall contain the name and
37 address of the convicted person; date, time, and place of arrest; and disposition of the

1 case and shall be published once in the legal organ of the appropriate county in the
 2 second week following such conviction or as soon thereafter as publication may be made.

3 (2) The convicted person for which a notice of conviction is published pursuant to this
 4 subsection shall be assessed the cost of publication of such notice, and such assessment
 5 shall be imposed at the time of conviction in addition to any other fine imposed pursuant
 6 to this Code section.

7 (3) The clerk of the court, the publisher of any legal organ which publishes a notice of
 8 conviction, and any other person involved in the publication of an erroneous notice of
 9 conviction shall be immune from civil or criminal liability for such erroneous publication,
 10 provided such publication was made in good faith.

11 16-7-53.1.

12 (a) Whenever a person has been arrested for a violation of Code Section 16-7-52
 13 committed while driving, moving, or operating a vehicle, the arresting law enforcement
 14 agency may impound the vehicle that the person was driving, moving, or operating at the
 15 time of arrest until such time as the arrestee claiming the vehicle meets the conditions for
 16 release in subsection (b) of this Code section or a person other than the arrestee meets the
 17 conditions for release in subsection (c) of this Code section.

18 (b) A vehicle impounded pursuant to this Code section shall not be released unless the
 19 person claiming the vehicle:

20 (1) Presents a valid driver's license, proof of ownership or lawful authority to operate the
 21 motor vehicle, and proof of valid motor vehicle insurance for that vehicle; and

22 (2) Is able to operate the vehicle in a safe manner and would not be in violation of Title
 23 40.

24 (c) A vehicle impounded pursuant to this Code section may be released to a person other
 25 than the arrestee only if:

26 (1) The vehicle is not owned or leased by the person under arrest and the person who
 27 owns or leases the vehicle claims the vehicle and meets the conditions for release in
 28 subsection (b) of this Code section; or

29 (2) The vehicle is owned or leased by the arrestee, the arrestee gives written permission
 30 to another person to operate the vehicle, and the conditions for release in subsection (b)
 31 of this Code section are met.

32 (d) A law enforcement agency impounding a vehicle pursuant to this Code section may
 33 charge a reasonable fee for towing and storage of the vehicle. The law enforcement agency
 34 may retain custody of the vehicle until that fee is paid.

1 16-7-54.

2 Whenever any ~~waste~~ egregious litter which is dumped in violation of Code Section 16-7-52
3 is discovered to contain any article or articles, including but not limited to letters, bills,
4 publications, or other writings which display the name of a person thereon, addressed to
5 such person or in any other manner indicating that the article belongs or belonged to such
6 person, ~~it shall be a rebuttable presumption~~ the trier of fact may in its discretion infer that
7 such person has violated this part.

8 16-7-55.

9 (a) Nothing in this part shall limit the authority of any state agency, county, municipality,
10 or consolidated government to enforce any other laws, rules, or regulations relating to
11 waste egregious litter or the management of solid, biomedical, or hazardous waste.

12 (b) Nothing within this part shall be construed to prohibit the adoption of local ordinances
13 regulating and controlling egregious litter within the jurisdiction of any county,
14 municipality, or consolidated government. Violation of such ordinances shall be punished
15 as provided in the municipal charter or local ordinances.

16 16-7-56.

17 Nothing in this part shall be construed so as to repeal, supersede, amend, or modify any
18 provision of Title 12."

19 **SECTION 2-3.**

20 Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
21 general provisions relative to elections and primaries generally, and Article 2 of Chapter 7
22 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to criminal trespass and
23 damage to property, are amended by striking Code Section 21-2-3, relating to prohibited
24 placement of campaign posters, signs, and advertisements, and inserting in lieu thereof in
25 said Article 2 of Chapter 7 of Title 16 the following:

26 "Part 3A

27 ~~21-2-3~~ 16-7-58.

28 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to place ~~campaign~~ posters, signs, ~~and~~ or
29 advertisements:

30 (1) Within the right of way of any public streets, roads, or highways, except official signs
31 or commercial advertisements required or authorized under Part 1 of Article 3 of Chapter
32 6 of Title 32;

1 (2) On any public property or building, unless the owner thereof or the occupier as
 2 authorized by such owner has given permission to place such posters, signs, or
 3 advertisements on such property;

4 (3) On any private property unless the owner thereof or the occupier as authorized by
 5 such owner has given permission to place such ~~campaign~~ posters, signs, and or
 6 advertisements on such property; or

7 ~~(4) Reserved;~~

8 ~~(5)~~(4) On any property zoned for commercial or industrial uses if the placement of such
 9 ~~campaign~~ posters, signs, and or advertisements conflicts with any zoning laws or
 10 ordinances.

11 (b) Whenever any poster, sign, or advertisement placed in violation of this Code section
 12 contains writing which displays the name of a person thereon or in any other manner
 13 indicates that the poster, sign, or advertisement belongs or belonged to such person or
 14 promotes or advertises for the benefit of such person, the trier of fact may in its discretion
 15 infer that such person has violated this Code section.

16 (c) Any poster, sign, or advertisement placed in violation of paragraph (1) or (2) of
 17 subsection (a) of this Code section is declared to be a public nuisance, and the officials
 18 having jurisdiction of the public street, road, or highway or other public property or
 19 building, including without limitation law enforcement officers, may remove or direct the
 20 removal of the same.

21 (d) Each poster, sign, or advertisement placed in violation of this Code section shall
 22 constitute a separate offense.

23 ~~(b)~~(e) Any person who violates this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and
 24 shall be punished the same as for littering under Code Section 16-7-43."

25 PART III

26 SECTION 3-1.

27 Chapter 8 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to waste
 28 management, is amended by striking paragraph (1.1) of Code Section 12-8-22, relating to
 29 definitions relative to solid waste, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

30 "(1.1) 'Biomedical waste' means pathological waste, biological waste cultures and stocks
 31 of infectious agents and associated biologicals, contaminated animal carcasses (body
 32 parts, their bedding, and other wastes from such animals), sharps, chemotherapy waste,
 33 discarded medical equipment and parts, not including expendable supplies and materials
 34 which have not been decontaminated, as further defined in Rule 391-3-4-.15 of the board
 35 as such rule existed on January 1, 2006, and other such waste materials."

SECTION 3-2.

Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 12-8-31, relating to a solid waste management plan, by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

"(e) By December 31, 2006, and annually thereafter, the Department of Community Affairs, as part of the annual solid waste report required in subsection (d) of this Code section and in cooperation with state agencies and other entities involved in litter prevention or abatement, shall report to the Governor and the General Assembly the status of litter prevention and abatement in this state. The litter report shall include but not be limited to:

- (1) An itemization of expenditures made from the Solid Waste Trust Fund for the prevention and abatement of litter;
- (2) A compilation and analysis of litter prevention, collection, and enforcement efforts;
- (3) An assessment of littering in this state;
- (4) A statement of progress in achieving a litter prevention ethic; and
- (5) Recommendations for improving litter abatement and prevention efforts."

SECTION 3-3.

Said chapter is further amended by striking paragraph (10) of Code Section 12-8-62, relating to definitions relative to hazardous waste management, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"(10) 'Hazardous waste' means any solid waste which has been defined as a hazardous waste in regulations promulgated by the administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to the federal act which are in force and effect on ~~February 1, 1996~~ January 1, 2006, codified as 40 C.F.R. Section 261.3 and any designated hazardous waste."

SECTION 3-4.

Said chapter is further amended by striking paragraph (4) of Code Section 12-8-92, relating to definitions relative to hazardous site response, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"(4) 'Hazardous substance' means any substance listed on the List of Hazardous Substances and Reportable Quantities, codified as 40 C.F.R., Part 302, Table 302.4, in force and effect on February 1, 1996, or any substance listed on the List of Extremely Hazardous Substances and Their Threshold Planning Quantities, codified as 40 C.F.R., Part 355, Appendix A, in force and effect on ~~February 1, 1996~~ January 1, 2006."

SECTION 3-5.

Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to courts, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

"15-9-30.7.

(a) Subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this Code section, in addition to any other jurisdiction vested in the probate courts, such courts shall have the right and power to conduct trials, receive pleas of guilty, and impose sentence upon defendants for violating any provision of Part 2, Part 3, or Part 3A of Article 2 of Chapter 7 of Title 16 that is punishable for its violation as a misdemeanor. Such jurisdiction shall be concurrent with other courts having jurisdiction over such violations.

(b) A probate court shall not have the power to dispose of misdemeanor cases as provided in subsection (a) of this Code section unless the defendant shall first waive in writing a trial by jury. If the defendant does not waive a trial by jury, the defendant shall notify the court and, if reasonable cause exists, the defendant shall be immediately bound over to a court in the county having jurisdiction to try the offense wherein a jury may be impaneled."

SECTION 3-6.

Said title is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

"15-10-2.1.

(a) Subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this Code section, in addition to any other jurisdiction vested in the magistrate courts, such courts shall have the right and power to conduct trials, receive pleas of guilty, and impose sentence upon defendants for violating any provision of Part 2, Part 3, or Part 3A of Article 2 of Chapter 7 of Title 16 that is punishable for its violation as a misdemeanor. Such jurisdiction shall be concurrent with other courts having jurisdiction over such violations.

(b) A magistrate court shall not have the power to dispose of misdemeanor cases as provided in subsection (a) of this Code section unless the defendant shall first waive in writing a trial by jury. If the defendant does not waive a trial by jury, the defendant shall notify the court and, if reasonable cause exists, the defendant shall be immediately bound over to a court in the county having jurisdiction to try the offense wherein a jury may be impaneled."

SECTION 3-7.

Title 17 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to criminal procedure, is amended by striking Code Section 17-6-9, relating to acceptance of cash bonds in lieu of statutory bond or recognizance by officers or officials authorized to enforce the "Litter Control Law," and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

1 "17-6-9.

2 Any law enforcement officer or official of a political subdivision of this state who is
3 authorized to enforce Part 2 of Article 2 of Chapter 7 of Title 16, ~~the 'Litter Control Law,'~~
4 and who is authorized by the judge having jurisdiction of the offense to accept cash bonds
5 may accept a cash bond for the personal appearance at trial of the person arrested in lieu
6 of a statutory bond or recognizance. The procedures connected with such cash bonds,
7 including, but not limited to, duties of the arresting officer, forfeiture, distribution of
8 proceeds, and discretion of court as to disposal of the cash bond, shall be the same
9 procedures applicable to arrest by a sheriff for a violation of any litter law."

10 SECTION 3-8.

11 Said title is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

12 "17-7-73.

13 In probate, magistrate, and municipal courts that have jurisdiction over violations of Part
14 2, Part 3, or Part 3A of Article 2 of Chapter 7 of Title 16 that are punishable as
15 misdemeanors in accordance with Code Section 15-9-30.7, 15-10-2.1, or 36-32-10.3 such
16 offenses may be tried upon a summons or citation with or without an accusation."

17 SECTION 3-9.

18 Chapter 6 of Title 32 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to regulation of
19 maintenance and use of public roads generally, and Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia
20 Annotated, relating to motor vehicles and traffic, are amended by striking Code Section
21 32-6-21, relating to securing loads on vehicles, and inserting in lieu thereof in said Title 40
22 the following:

23 "~~32-6-21~~ 40-6-248.1.

24 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'litter' has the meaning provided by paragraph
25 (1) of Code Section 16-7-42.

26 ~~(a)~~(a.1) No vehicle shall be driven or moved on any public road unless such vehicle is
27 constructed or loaded or covered so as to prevent any of its load from dropping, escaping,
28 or shifting in such a manner as to ~~create~~:

29 (1) Create a safety hazard; or

30 (2) Deposit litter on public or private property while such vehicle is on a public road.

31 However, this Code section shall not prohibit the necessary spreading of any substance in
32 public road maintenance or construction operations.

33 (b) No person shall operate or load for operation, on any public road, any vehicle with any
34 load unless such load and any covering thereon is securely fastened so as to prevent said
35 covering or load from ~~becoming~~:

1 (1) Becoming loose, detached, or in any manner becoming a hazard to other users of the
2 public road; or

3 (2) Depositing litter on public or private property while such vehicle is on a public road.

4 (c) Nothing in this Code section nor any regulations based thereon shall conflict with
5 federal, Georgia Public Service Commission, or Georgia Board of Public Safety regulations
6 applying to the securing of loads on motor vehicles.

7 (d) The provisions of paragraph (2) of subsection (a) and paragraph (2) of subsection (b)
8 of this Code section and regulations based thereon shall not apply to ~~vehicles carrying~~
9 organic debris that escapes during the transportation of silage from field to storage and
10 storage to feedlot or ~~vehicles or equipment carrying unginmed cotton~~ during the
11 transportation of agricultural or farm products or silvicultural products from farm or forest
12 to a processing plant."

13 SECTION 3-10.

14 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 32-6-51, relating to erection, placement, or
15 maintenance of unlawful or unauthorized structure and removal thereof, by striking
16 subparagraph (d)(1)(B) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

17 "(B) 'Commercial ~~advertisement~~ advertisements' means a any printed or painted sign
18 ~~encouraging or promoting the purchase or use of goods or services but does not include~~
19 ~~campaign posters, signs, or advertisements prohibited by Code Section 21-2-3~~ signs on
20 a bus shelter for which space has been rented or leased from the owner of such shelter."

21 SECTION 3-11.

22 Article 1 of Chapter 32 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
23 general provisions relative to municipal courts, is amended by adding a new Code section
24 to read as follows:

25 "36-32-10.3.

26 (a) Subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this Code section, in addition to any other
27 jurisdiction vested in the municipal courts, such courts shall have the right and power to
28 conduct trials, receive pleas of guilty, and impose sentence upon defendants for violating
29 any provision of Part 2, Part 3, or Part 3A of Article 2 of Chapter 7 of Title 16 that is
30 punishable for its violation as a misdemeanor. Such jurisdiction shall be concurrent with
31 other courts having jurisdiction over such violations.

32 (b) A municipal court shall not have the power to dispose of misdemeanor cases as
33 provided in subsection (a) of this Code section unless the defendant shall first waive in
34 writing a trial by jury. If the defendant does not waive a trial by jury, the defendant shall
35 notify the court and, if reasonable cause exists, the defendant shall be immediately bound

1 over to a court in the county having jurisdiction to try the offense wherein a jury may be
2 impaneled."

3 **SECTION 3-12.**

4 Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to motor vehicles and traffic, is
5 amended in Code Section 40-5-57, relating to suspension or revocation of drivers' licenses
6 of habitually negligent or dangerous drivers and the points system, by striking subparagraph
7 (c)(1)(A) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

8 "(c)(1)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (C) of this paragraph, the points to be
9 assessed for each offense shall be as provided in the following schedule:

10	Aggressive driving.....	6 points
11	Reckless driving.....	4 points
12	Unlawful passing of a school bus.....	6 points
13	Improper passing on a hill or a curve.....	4 points
14	Exceeding the speed limit by more than 14 miles per hour but	
15	less than 19 miles per hour.....	2 points
16	Exceeding the speed limit by 19 miles per hour or more but	
17	less than 24 miles per hour.....	3 points
18	Exceeding the speed limit by 24 miles per hour or more but	
19	less than 34 miles per hour.....	4 points
20	Exceeding the speed limit by 34 miles per hour or more.....	6 points
21	Disobedience of any traffic-control device or traffic officer.....	3 points
22	Too fast for conditions.....	0 points
23	Possessing an open container of an alcoholic beverage while driving.....	2 points
24	Failure to adequately secure a load, except fresh farm produce,	
25	resulting in loss of such load onto the roadway which results in	
26	<u>an accident or littering from a motor vehicle</u>	2 points
27	Violation of child safety restraint requirements, first offense.....	1 point
28	Violation of child safety restraint requirements, second or	
29	subsequent offense.....	2 points
30	All other moving traffic violations which are not speed limit	
31	violations.....	3 points"

32 **SECTION 3-13.**

33 Said title is further amended by striking Code Section 40-6-249, relating to littering
34 highways, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

1 "40-6-249.
2 ~~A person~~ Any person littering a highway in violation of Part 2 of Article 2 of Chapter 7 of
3 Title 16, ~~the 'Litter Control Law,'~~ or driving, moving, or loading for operation a vehicle in
4 violation of Code Section 40-6-248.1 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon
5 conviction thereof, shall be punished as provided in Code Section 16-7-43."

6 **PART IV**

7 **SECTION 4-1.**

8 The Official Code of Georgia Annotated is amended by reserving the following former
9 designations:

- 10 (1) Code Section 32-6-21; and
11 (2) Code Section 21-2-3.

12 **PART V**

13 **SECTION 5-1.**

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