

The House Committee on Judiciary offers the following substitute to HB 1195:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Chapter 11 of Title 9 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the "Georgia Civil Practice Act," so as to require complaints to be accompanied in filing with the civil case filing form; to require judgments to be accompanied in filing with the civil case disposition form; to change certain provisions relating to commencement of actions; to provide for amended civil case filing forms; to change certain provisions relating to entry of judgment; to provide for confidential settlement agreements being excluded on civil case disposition forms; 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 9 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the "Georgia Civil Practice Act," is amended by striking Code Section 9-11-3, relating to commencement of actions, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"9-11-3.

(a) A civil action is commenced by filing a complaint with the court.

(b) At the time of filing the complaint for a civil action in superior court or state court, ~~or as soon as practicable thereafter,~~ the plaintiff shall file the appropriate civil case filing form with the clerk of the court. The form shall contain complete information and shall be substantially in the form prescribed in Code Section 9-11-133. The filing of the complaint shall not be delayed for the filing of the case filing form. If, after a civil action has been filed, the court presiding over the civil action decides that the civil case filing form has not been filed or has been filed incorrectly, the court shall require the plaintiff to file the civil case filing form or an amended form. In no case shall the failure to accurately complete the civil case filing form required by this Code section provide a basis to dismiss a civil action."

SECTION 2.

Said chapter is further amended by striking subsection (b) of Code Section 9-11-58, relating to the entry of judgment and filing of the civil case disposition form, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"(b) *When judgment entered.* The filing with the clerk of a judgment, signed by the judge, with the fully completed civil case disposition form constitutes the entry of the judgment, and, unless the court otherwise directs, no judgment shall be effective for any purpose until the entry of the same, as provided in this subsection. As part ~~At the time~~ of the filing of the final judgment, a civil case disposition form shall be filed by the prevailing party or by the plaintiff if the case is settled, dismissed, or otherwise disposed of without a prevailing party; provided, however, that the amount of a sealed or otherwise confidential settlement agreement shall not be disclosed on the civil case disposition form. The form shall be substantially in the form prescribed in Code Section 9-11-133. If any of the information required by the form is sealed by the court, the form shall state that fact and the information under seal shall not be provided. The entry of the judgment shall not be made by the clerk of the court until the civil case disposition form is filed. The entry of the judgment shall not be delayed for the taxing of costs ~~or the filing of the case disposition form.~~"

SECTION 3.

This Act shall become on July 1, 2006, and shall apply to actions and judgments filed on or after July 1, 2006.

SECTION 4.

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