

Senate Bill 581

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Tolleson of the 20th, Carter of the 13th, Thomas of the 54th, Hamrick of the 30th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 5 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
2 Georgia Public Safety Training Center, so as to authorize the training center to provide  
3 training for emergency medical personnel; to change certain provisions relating to the  
4 Georgia Public Safety Training Center; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective  
5 date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

7 Chapter 5 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Georgia  
8 Public Safety Training Center, is amended by striking Code Section 35-5-2, relating to the  
9 board's authority to establish, operate, and maintain the Georgia Public Safety Training  
10 Center, in its entirety and inserting in its place a new Code Section 35-5-2 to read as follows:

11 "35-5-2.

12 (a) The Board of Public Safety is authorized:

13 (1) To establish, operate, and maintain the Georgia Public Safety Training Center for the  
14 purpose of providing facilities and programs for the training of state and local law  
15 enforcement officers, firefighters, correctional personnel, emergency medical personnel,  
16 and others; and

17 (2) To do all things and take any action necessary to accomplish such purpose, including,  
18 but not limited to, the promulgation of rules and regulations relative thereto.

19 (b) The board is authorized and directed to select a site for the center.

20 (c) The board shall select the administrator of the center and establish the compensation  
21 for the administrator.

22 (d) As used in this chapter, the term 'emergency medical personnel' includes emergency  
23 medical technicians or emergency rescue specialists who are certified or seeking  
24 certification as emergency medical technicians, paramedics, tactical emergency medical  
25

1 officers, cardiac technicians, or other medical first responders under Chapter 11 of Title 31  
 2 and who are employed in the capacity for which they are certified or seeking certification."

3 **SECTION 2.**

4 Said chapter is further amended by striking Code Section 35-5-5, relating to the availability  
 5 of the center for use by state and local law enforcement officers, in its entirety and inserting  
 6 a new Code Section 35-5-5 to read as follows:

7 "35-5-5.

8 (a) Subject to such rules and regulations as shall be prescribed by the board, the facilities  
 9 of the center may be made available to all state and local law enforcement officers,  
 10 firefighters, emergency medical personnel, and correctional personnel and may also be  
 11 made available to other persons who evidence interest in entering the fields of law  
 12 enforcement, fire fighting, emergency medical services, or corrections.

13 (b) The board is authorized to prescribe and collect such fees as are necessary to defray  
 14 all or a portion of the cost of furnishing such training and the use of the facilities of the  
 15 center.

16 (c) The state and counties and municipalities of this state are authorized to expend funds  
 17 for the purpose of paying the fees assessed for use of the center. The board shall have the  
 18 authority to determine who shall be allowed to enroll and participate in the training  
 19 programs of the center and who shall be allowed to utilize the facilities of the center.

20 (d) Subject to such rules and regulations as shall be prescribed by the board, the Georgia  
 21 Public Safety Training Center shall have the following powers and duties in connection  
 22 with the training of peace officers, emergency medical personnel, and law enforcement  
 23 support personnel:

24 (1) To train instructors authorized to conduct training of peace officers, emergency  
 25 medical personnel, and law enforcement support personnel;

26 (2) To reimburse or provide for certain costs incurred in training peace officers,  
 27 emergency medical personnel, and law enforcement support personnel employed or  
 28 appointed by each agency, organ, or department of this state, counties, and municipalities  
 29 to the extent that funds are appropriated for such purpose by the General Assembly. In  
 30 the event sufficient funds are not appropriated for a fiscal year to fund the full cost  
 31 provided for in this paragraph, then the amount which would otherwise be payable shall  
 32 be reduced pro rata on the basis of the funds actually appropriated. As used in this  
 33 paragraph, the terms 'cost' and 'costs' shall not include travel or salaries of personnel  
 34 undergoing training and shall be limited exclusively to the cost of tuition, meals, and  
 35 lodging which are incurred in connection with such training;

1 (3) To expend funds appropriated or otherwise available to the center for paying the  
 2 costs of training provided under subsection (a) of Code Section 35-8-20, other than travel  
 3 expenses and salaries of police chiefs or department heads of law enforcement units and  
 4 wardens of state institutions undergoing training, and shall expend such funds for  
 5 purposes of compensating a training officer to administer the course of training and  
 6 conduct any business associated with the training provisions of said Code Section  
 7 35-8-20;

8 (4) To expend funds appropriated or otherwise available to the center for paying the  
 9 costs of training provided for under subsection (a) of Code Section 35-8-20.1, other than  
 10 travel expenses and salaries of police chiefs or department heads of law enforcement  
 11 units undergoing training, and shall expend such funds for purposes of compensating a  
 12 training officer to administer the course of training and conduct any business associated  
 13 with the training provisions of said Code Section 35-8-20.1; and

14 (5) To expend funds appropriated or otherwise available to the center for paying the  
 15 costs of training provided for under Chapter 11 of Title 31 for the initial certification  
 16 training and continued training as needed by emergency medical personnel and shall  
 17 expend such funds for purposes of compensating a training officer to administer the  
 18 course of training and conduct any business associated with the training provisions of  
 19 said chapter; and

20 ~~(5)~~(6) To administer and coordinate the training for communications officers with  
 21 respect to the requirements of Code Section 35-8-23. The board shall be authorized to  
 22 promulgate rules and regulations to facilitate the administration and coordination of  
 23 training consistent with the provisions of said Code Section 35-8-23. The tuition costs of  
 24 the training of communications officers shall be paid from funds appropriated to the  
 25 center."

26 **SECTION 3.**

27 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2006.

28 **SECTION 4.**

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