

ADOPTED

Senators Kemp of the 46th, Hudgens of the 47th, Wiles of the 37th, Harp of the 29th, Powell of the 23rd and others offered the following amendment:

Amend the Senate Judiciary Committee substitute to SB 503 (LC 29 2319S) by inserting after "council;" on line 8 of page 1 the following:

to provide that public defenders shall not be authorized to utilize a badge, shield, or similar item; to change certain provisions relating to public defenders;

By inserting between lines 2 and 3 of page 7 the following:

SECTION 5.1.

Said title is further amended by striking subsection (g) of Code Section 17-12-27, relating to the appointment of assistant public defenders, salary, and promotions, and inserting a new subsection (g) to read as follows:

"(g) All full-time state paid employees of the office of the circuit public defender shall be state employees in the unclassified service of the State Merit System of Personnel Administration with all benefits of such appointed state employees as provided by law. A circuit public defender, assistant public defender, or local public defender may be issued an employee identification card by his or her employing agency; provided, however, no employer of any such public defender shall issue nor shall any public defender display, wear, or carry any badge, shield, card, or other item that is similar to a law enforcement officer's badge or that could be reasonably construed to indicate that the public defender is a peace officer or law enforcement official."