

Senate Bill 223

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

**AS PASSED SENATE**

**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 authorize 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 rules and regulations; to  
5 provide for immunity; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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

7 **SECTION 1.**

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

10 "ARTICLE 7

11 38-3-100.

12 The General Assembly recognizes the extreme dangers present when the safety of our  
13 citizens requires first responders such as police and fire fighters to evacuate or secure a  
14 building. To better prepare for responding to disasters, criminal acts, and acts of terrorism,  
15 the General Assembly intends to create a state-wide first responder building mapping  
16 information system that will provide first responders with information they need to be  
17 successful when disaster strikes. The first responder building mapping information system  
18 shall be developed for this limited and specific purpose and does not impose standards or  
19 system requirements on any other mapping systems used for any other purpose.

20 38-3-101.

21 As used in this article, the term:

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

1 (2) 'Building mapping information system' means a state-wide informational system  
2 containing maps of designated public buildings which shall readily be made available to  
3 emergency first responders.

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

5  
6 38-3-102.

7 (a) Subject to availability of funds for such purposes, the agency is authorized to create  
8 and operate the state-wide building mapping information system and may make grants to  
9 local governments for purposes of this article. Once the building mapping information  
10 system is operational, the agency shall make the building mapping information available  
11 electronically to all state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies, the Georgia  
12 Department of Defense, and public fire departments.

13 (b) Once the building mapping information system is operational, it shall be within the  
14 discretion of state and local agencies to determine which government owned or leased  
15 buildings, if any, should be mapped with special consideration given to schools,  
16 courthouses, and larger public structures utilized by large numbers of employees or private  
17 citizens. Nothing in this article requires any state or local agency to map any building.

18 (c) State and local agencies electing to participate in the building mapping information  
19 system once the system is operational shall forward to the agency the building mapping  
20 information as provided in subsection (d) of this Code section. Any private entity or  
21 department or agency of the federal government that desires to participate in the system  
22 may also voluntarily forward its building mapping information to the agency. The agency  
23 may refuse any information that does not comply with the agency's specifications and  
24 requirements.

25 (d) The agency is authorized to develop rules and regulations for the purpose of  
26 implementing the provisions of this Code section. Such rules and regulations shall specify:

27 (1) The type of information to be included in the building mapping information system  
28 which shall at a minimum include floor plans, fire protection information, evacuation  
29 plans, utility information, known hazards, and text and digital images showing emergency  
30 personnel contact information;

31 (2) The building mapping software standards that shall be utilized by all entities  
32 participating in the building mapping information system; and

33 (3) Security procedures to ensure that the information is only made available to the  
34 government entity that either owns or operates the building or is responding to an  
35 emergency incident at the building.

36 (e) The agency is authorized to pursue federal funds or other sources of funding for the  
37 creation and operation of the building mapping information system and is further

1 authorized to seek or assist state and local agencies in obtaining grants or donations for the  
2 mapping of government owned or leased buildings.

3 (f) Information provided to the agency under this article shall be exempt from public  
4 disclosure to the extent provided in subsection (a) of Code Section 50-18-72.

5 (g) The agency may recommend training guidelines regarding use of the building mapping  
6 information system for law enforcement officers, firefighters, and other authorized  
7 emergency first responders.

8 (h) Nothing in this Code section supersedes the authority of state departments and agencies  
9 and local governments to control and maintain access to information within their  
10 independent systems.

11 38-3-103.

12 Local governments and agencies and their employees shall be immune from civil liability  
13 for any damages arising out of the creation and use of the building mapping information  
14 system unless it is shown that an employee acted with gross negligence or bad faith."

15 **SECTION 2.**

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