

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

AS PASSED

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 effect of chapter on the Department
5 of Technical and Adult Education; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date;
6 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 5 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Georgia
10 Public Safety Training Center, is amended by striking Code Section 35-5-2, relating to the
11 board's authority to establish, operate, and maintain the Georgia Public Safety Training
12 Center, in its entirety and inserting in its place a new Code Section 35-5-2 to read as follows:
13 "35-5-2.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 Said chapter is further amended by striking Code Section 35-5-6, relating to the effect of
 28 the chapter on powers of the Board of Corrections and State Board of Pardons and
 29 Paroles, and inserting a new Code Section 35-5-6 to read as follows:

30 "35-5-6.

31 Nothing in this chapter shall be considered as altering current state laws establishing the
 32 powers and authority of the Board of Corrections or the State Board of Pardons and
 33 Paroles. Furthermore, nothing in this chapter shall prevent the Department of Technical
 34 and Adult Education from providing any course of instruction including, but not limited
 35 to, instructional courses, certified training, advanced instruction, or classes for or
 36 pertaining to public safety first responders and emergency medical personnel."

1 **SECTION 4.**

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

3 **SECTION 5.**

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