

Senate Bill 27

By: Senators Johnson of the 1st and Chapman of the 3rd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 52-7-71 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 removal and storage of vessels and procedures therefor, so as to provide for revocation of  
3 certificates of number for abandoned vessels which have not been redeemed; to prohibit  
4 issuing new certificates of number or motor vehicle registrations for abandoned vessels that  
5 have not been redeemed; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 52-7-71 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to removal and  
9 storage of vessels and procedures therefor, is amended by revising subsection (e) as follows:

10 "(e)(1) If the owner fails to redeem such vessel as described in subsection (d) of this  
11 Code section, or if a vessel being repaired by a repair facility or being stored by an  
12 insurance company providing insurance to cover damages to the vessel becomes  
13 abandoned, the person removing or storing such vessel shall, within seven calendar days  
14 of the day such vessel became an abandoned vessel, give notice in writing, by sworn  
15 statement, to the Department of Natural Resources and the Georgia Bureau of  
16 Investigation, stating the vessel registration number, the license number, the fact that such  
17 vessel is an abandoned vessel, the model, year, and make of the vessel, if known or if  
18 readily ascertainable, the date the vessel became an abandoned vessel, the date the vessel  
19 was removed, and the present location of such vessel and requesting the name and  
20 address of all owners, lessors, lessees, security interest holders, and lienholders of such  
21 vessel.

22 (2) If the owner fails to redeem such vessel as described in subsection (d) of this Code  
23 section, any certificate of number issued under Article 1 of this chapter for such vessel  
24 shall be revoked, and the owner of the vessel shall not be issued any new certificate of  
25 number for any vessel nor any new motor vehicle registration in this state until all fees  
26 connected with removal and storage of the vessel have been paid or a lien acquired under  
27 Code Section 52-7-73 for such fees has been satisfied. The department shall transmit

1 such information as is necessary to the Department of Revenue for purposes of  
2 enforcement of this paragraph with respect to motor vehicle registrations.

3 (3) If a person removing or storing the vessel has knowledge of facts which reasonably  
4 indicate that the vessel is registered or titled in a certain other state, such person shall  
5 check the vessel records of that other state in the attempt to ascertain the identity of the  
6 owner of the vessel."

7 **SECTION 2.**

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