

Senate Bill 135

By: Senators Hamrick of the 30th, Reed of the 35th and Mullis of the 53rd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 8 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to criminal reproduction and sale of recorded material, so as increase penalties for
3 reproducing, transferring, selling, distributing, or circulating certain recorded material; to
4 provide for forfeiture of certain items; to provide for additional restitution as it relates to
5 violation of Code Section 16-8-60, relating to reproduction of recorded material, transfer,
6 sale, distribution, and circulation; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws;
7 and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Article 3 of Chapter 8 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
11 criminal reproduction and sale of recorded material, is amended by revising Code Section
12 16-8-60, relating to reproducing, transferring, selling, distributing, or circulating certain
13 recorded material, as follows:

14 "16-8-60.

15 (a) It is unlawful for any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or association knowingly
16 to:

17 (1) Transfer or cause to be transferred any sounds or visual images recorded on a
18 phonograph record, disc, wire, tape, videotape, film, or other article on which sounds or
19 visual images are recorded onto any other phonograph record, disc, wire, tape, videotape,
20 film, or article without the consent of the person who owns the master phonograph
21 record, master disc, master tape, master videotape, master film, or other device or article
22 from which the sounds or visual images are derived; or

23 (2) Sell; distribute; circulate; offer for sale, distribution, or circulation; possess for the
24 purpose of sale, distribution, or circulation; cause to be sold, distributed, or circulated;
25 cause to be offered for sale, distribution, or circulation; or cause to be possessed for sale,
26 distribution, or circulation any article or device on which sounds or visual images have

1 been transferred, knowing it to have been made without the consent of the person who
 2 owns the master phonograph record, master disc, master tape, master videotape, master
 3 film, or other device or article from which the sounds or visual images are derived.

4 (b) It is unlawful for any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or association to sell;
 5 distribute; circulate; offer for sale, distribution, or circulation; or possess for the purposes
 6 of sale, distribution, or circulation any phonograph record, disc, wire, tape, videotape, film,
 7 or other article on which sounds or visual images have been transferred unless such
 8 phonograph record, disc, wire, tape, videotape, film, or other article bears the actual name
 9 and address of the transferor of the sounds or visual images in a prominent place on its
 10 outside face or package.

11 (c) This Code section ~~does~~ shall not apply to any person who transfers or causes to be
 12 transferred any such sounds or visual images:

13 (1) Intended for or in connection with radio or television broadcast transmission or
 14 related uses;

15 (2) For archival purposes; or

16 (3) Solely for the personal use of the person transferring or causing the transfer and
 17 without any profit being derived by the person from the transfer.

18 (d) Every person convicted of violating ~~Violation of~~ this Code section is shall be guilty of
 19 a felony and is ~~punishable upon conviction~~ shall be punished as follows:

20 (1) Upon first conviction, by a fine of not less than \$500.00 nor more than \$25,000.00,
 21 ~~or~~ by imprisonment for not less than one year nor more than two years and the judge may
 22 suspend, stay, or probate all but 24 hours of any term of imprisonment, or both such fine
 23 and imprisonment;

24 (2) For the second or subsequent violations of conviction of violating this Code section,
 25 ~~shall be punishable upon conviction~~ by a fine of not less than \$1,000.00 nor more than
 26 \$100,000.00, ~~or~~ by imprisonment for not less than one year nor more than three years and
 27 the judge may suspend, stay, or probate all but 48 hours of any term of imprisonment, or
 28 both such fine and imprisonment; or

29 (3) For the third or subsequent conviction of violating this Code section, by a fine of not
 30 less than \$2,000.00 nor more than \$250,000.00, by imprisonment for not less than two
 31 nor more than five years and the judge may suspend, stay, or probate all but six days of
 32 any term of imprisonment, or both such fine and imprisonment.

33 (e) This Code section shall neither enlarge nor diminish the right of parties to enter into
 34 a private contract.

35 (f)(1) Any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or association that is convicted of or
 36 pleads nolo contendere to a violation of this Code section shall forfeit to this state any and
 37 all interest as the person, firm, partnership, corporation, or association may have in any

1 and all property associated with a violation of this Code section including, but not limited
2 to:

3 (A) Any phonograph record, disc, wire, tape, videotape, film, or other article on which
4 sounds or visual images have been transferred;

5 (B) Any reproduction equipment, scanners, computer equipment, printing equipment,
6 or other asset, used to commit a violation of this Code section; and

7 (C) Any property constituting or directly derived from gross profits or other proceeds
8 obtained from a violation of this Code section.

9 (2) Any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or association that is charged with a
10 violation of this Code section shall forfeit to this state, after 90 days of the charging of
11 the violation of this Code section, in the absence of written objection by the defendant,
12 any and all interest as the person, firm, partnership, corporation, or association may have
13 in any phonograph record, disc, wire, tape, videotape, film, or other article on which
14 sounds or visual images have been transferred, that amount to cumulative evidence in the
15 case at issue. Such articles shall be deemed contraband and subject to destruction.

16 (g) For purposes of imposing restitution pursuant to Chapter 14 of Title 17 when a person
17 is convicted pursuant to this Code section, the court shall consider damages to any owner
18 or lawful producer of a master phonograph record, master disc, master tape, master
19 videotape, master film, or other device or article from which sounds or visual images are
20 derived, or to the trade association representing such owner or lawful producer that has
21 suffered injury as a result of the violation of this Code section. Restitutions shall be based
22 upon the aggregate wholesale value of lawfully manufactured and authorized recorded
23 devices corresponding to the nonconforming recorded devices involved in the violation of
24 this Code section and shall also include reasonable investigative costs related to the
25 detection of the violation of this Code section."

26 SECTION 2.

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