

Senate Bill 135

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

**AS PASSED SENATE**

**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) The following property shall be subject to forfeiture to the State of Georgia:

36 (A) Any phonograph record, disc, wire, tape, videotape, film, or other article onto  
 37 which sounds or visual images have been transferred;

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

3 (C) Any property constituting proceeds derived from or realized through a violation  
4 of this Code section;

5 except that no property of any owner shall be forfeited under this paragraph, to the extent  
6 of the interest of such owner, by reason of an act or omission established by such owner  
7 to have been committed or omitted without knowledge or consent of such owner.

8 (2) The procedure for forfeiture and disposition of forfeited property under this  
9 subsection shall be as provided for under Code Section 16-13-49.

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

20 **SECTION 2.**

21 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.