

House Bill 1398

By: Representatives Marin of the 96th and Talton of the 145th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 1 of Article 2 of Chapter 7 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to general provisions for criminal trespass and damage to property, so
3 as to change provisions relating to criminal damage to property in the first degree; to increase
4 certain penalties; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
5 purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Part 1 of Article 2 of Chapter 7 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
9 relating to general provisions for criminal trespass and damage to property, is amended by
10 revising Code Section 16-7-22, relating to criminal damage to property in the first degree,
11 as follows:

12 "16-7-22.

13 (a) A person commits the offense of criminal damage to property in the first degree when
14 he or she:

15 (1) Knowingly and without authority interferes with any property in a manner so as to
16 endanger human life; or

17 (2) Knowingly and without authority and by force or violence interferes with the
18 operation of any system of public communication, public transportation, sewerage,
19 drainage, water supply, gas, power, or other public utility service or with any constituent
20 property thereof.

21 (b) A person convicted of the offense of criminal damage to property in the first degree
22 in violation of paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of this Code section shall be punished by
23 imprisonment for not less than two nor more than 15 years. A person convicted of the
24 offense of criminal damage to property in the first degree in violation of paragraph (2) of
25 subsection (a) of this Code section shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than one
26 nor more than ten years."

1

SECTION 2.

2 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.