

House Bill 1227 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Lewis of the 15th, Day of the 163rd, Martin of the 47th, and Williams of the 4th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 11 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to taxes
2 on tobacco products, so as to provide for utilization of digital based cigarette stamp
3 processes; to provide a short title; to provide for dates and stages of implementation; to
4 provide for related matters; to provide for a contingent effective date; to repeal conflicting
5 laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Anti-cigarette Smuggling Act."

9 **SECTION 2.**

10 Chapter 11 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to taxes on
11 tobacco products, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

12 "48-11-3.1.

13 (a) The department shall utilize appropriate new technology on a state-wide basis which
14 implements digital based cigarette stamp processes that will further ensure against forgery
15 and tax evasion and aid the department in enforcement. Said technology shall feature
16 instant verification of the validity of a stamp by an enforcement officer without the use of
17 a central data base and shall enable the department to track and trace individual packages
18 of cigarettes.

19 (b) Not later than three months after the date this Code section becomes effective, the
20 department shall issue a request for proposals to qualified vendors for technology meeting
21 the requirements of subsection (a) of this Code section.

22 (c) Not later than six months after the date this Code section becomes effective, the
23 department shall develop and implement a pilot program to determine the most beneficial
24 manner of implementing the technology meeting the requirements of subsection (a) of this
25 Code section.

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1 (d) Not later than 15 months after the date this Code section becomes effective, the
2 department shall complete state-wide implementation of the technology meeting the
3 requirements of subsection (a) of this Code section."

4 **SECTION 3.**

5 This Act shall become effective only if funds are specifically appropriated for purposes of
6 this Act in an appropriations Act making specific reference to this Act and shall become
7 effective when funds so appropriated become available for expenditure.

8 **SECTION 4.**

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