

Senate Bill 425

By: Senator Grant of the 25th

AS PASSED

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 9 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
 2 insuring and indemnification, so as to amend certain provisions pertaining to providing
 3 insurance coverage by the commissioner of administrative services; to authorize the
 4 Department of Administrative Services to establish incentive programs including differential
 5 premium rates and deductibles based on loss histories of state agencies, institutions, and
 6 authorities, and such entities' participation in loss control programs; to provide for
 7 definitions; to repeal provisions relating to employee operation of state motor vehicles; to
 8 amend Chapter 5 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
 9 Department of Administrative Services, so as to authorize the commissioner of
 10 administrative services to establish incentive programs; to establish a return to work
 11 program; to provide for premiums, deductibles, and penalties for state entities; to amend
 12 Chapter 16 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to public property,
 13 so as to authorize the Department of Administrative Services to establish incentive programs
 14 including differential premium rates and deductibles based on loss histories of state agencies,
 15 institutions, and authorities, and such entities' participation in loss control programs; to
 16 amend Code Section 50-21-33, relating to liability insurance or self-insurance programs and
 17 additional coverages, so as to authorize the Department of Administrative Services to
 18 establish incentive programs including differential premium rates and deductibles based on
 19 loss histories of state agencies, institutions, and authorities, and such entities' participation
 20 in loss control programs; to provide for the deposit of funds collected from state entities; to
 21 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

22 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

23 **SECTION 1.**

24 Chapter 9 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to insuring and
 25 indemnification, is amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 45-9-4, relating to

1 the commissioner of administrative services purchasing insurance or entering into indemnity
2 contracts, as follows:

3 "(a) When the commissioner of administrative services determines that an adequate
4 number of agencies, boards, bureaus, commissions, departments, or authorities of this state
5 have requested the commissioner to do so, the commissioner shall have the authority to
6 purchase policies of liability insurance, reinsurance, or contracts of indemnity insuring or
7 indemnifying the officers, officials, or employees of such agencies, boards, bureaus,
8 commissions, departments, or authorities against personal liability for damages arising out
9 of the performance of their duties or in any way connected therewith, under a master policy
10 or on a blanket coverage basis with or without deductibles or excess coverage. The
11 commissioner may provide for endorsements for contractual liability and, where necessary
12 or convenient to the public functions of the state, the commissioner may also provide for
13 additional insureds. In such event, the commissioner may alternatively retain all moneys
14 paid to the Department of Administrative Services as premiums on such policies of liability
15 insurance or contracts of indemnity, all moneys received as interest, and all moneys
16 received from other sources to set up and maintain a reserve fund for the payment of such
17 liability under, and the expenses necessary to administer properly, a self-insurance
18 program. If the commissioner decides to institute a self-insurance program, the
19 commissioner shall establish and maintain a reserve fund for the payment of liabilities
20 arising out of claims against officers, officials, and employees of the state and for any
21 additional insureds. The commissioner shall also charge to state entities such premiums,
22 deductibles, and other payments taking into account any direct appropriations as shall be
23 necessary to maintain the soundness of the insurance or self-insurance programs
24 established under this Code section. The commissioner is further authorized to establish
25 incentive programs, including differential premium rates based on participation in loss
26 control programs established by the department, increased or decreased deductibles based
27 on participation in loss control programs established by the department, and the imposition
28 of fines and penalties. If any premiums, deductibles, fines, or penalties are unpaid, the
29 department is authorized to deduct any unpaid amounts from the nonpaying agency's or
30 authority's continuation budget subject to the approval of the Office of Planning and
31 Budget and deposit those funds into the liability trust fund provided for in this Code
32 section. Any amounts held by the commissioner which are available for investment shall
33 be paid over to the Office of Treasury and Fiscal Services. The director of the Office of
34 Treasury and Fiscal Services shall deposit such funds in a trust account for credit only to
35 the self-insurance program. The director of the Office of Treasury and Fiscal Services shall
36 invest these funds subject to the limitations of Code Section 50-5A-7 and Chapter 17 of
37 Title 50. All income derived from such investments shall accrue to the self-insurance

1 program. When moneys are paid over to the Office of Treasury and Fiscal Services, as
 2 provided in this subsection, the commissioner shall submit an estimate of the date such
 3 funds shall no longer be available for investment. When the commissioner wishes to
 4 withdraw funds from the trust account provided for in this Code section, he or she shall
 5 submit a request for such withdrawal, in writing, to the director of the Office of Treasury
 6 and Fiscal Services."

7 **SECTION 2.**

8 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 45-9-4, relating to the
 9 commissioner of administrative services purchasing insurance or entering into indemnity
 10 contracts, by adding a new subsection as follows:

11 "(g) The policy of insurance provided for in this Code section may also provide liability
 12 coverage to nonprofit agencies and their employees, which agencies have contracted with
 13 the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Transportation, or the Department
 14 of Human Resources to furnish certain services; provided, however, that such liability
 15 coverage shall be limited to damages arising out of the authorized use of a state-owned
 16 vehicle or a vehicle funded pursuant to subsection (a) of Code Section 49-2-13.1 by an
 17 employee of such nonprofit agency during the course of such person's employment with
 18 such nonprofit agency and the cost of such insurance furnished to any such nonprofit
 19 agency and its employees shall be allocated to and paid by such agency before any
 20 coverage shall be effective. For the purpose of this Code section, 'nonprofit agency' means
 21 any nonprofit or charitable organization, association, corporation, partnership, or other
 22 entity registered pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code."

23 **SECTION 3.**

24 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 45-9-4.2, relating
 25 to liability coverage for nonprofit agencies providing services to the mentally retarded, as
 26 follows:

27 "(a) For the purposes of this Code section, the term 'nonprofit agency' means a nonprofit
 28 or charitable organization, association, corporation, partnership, or other entity registered
 29 pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code."

30 **SECTION 4.**

31 Said chapter is further amended by repealing Article 3, relating to the operation of state
 32 motor vehicles by employees, and designating said article as reserved.

SECTION 7.

Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 50-5-16, relating to liability insurance and self-insurance for state authorities, as follows:

"(b) State funds may be appropriated for the program, but the commissioner shall charge such premiums, deductibles, and other payments as the commissioner determines necessary or useful. The commissioner is further authorized to establish incentive programs including differential premium rates based on participation in loss control programs established by the department, increased or decreased deductibles based on participation in loss control programs established by the department, and the imposition of fines and penalties. If any premiums, deductibles, fines, or penalties are unpaid, the department is authorized to deduct any unpaid amounts from the nonpaying agency's or authority's continuation budget subject to the approval of the Office of Planning and Budget and deposit those funds into the reserve fund provided for in this Code section. From the funds available to the commissioner, the commissioner shall establish such reserves as the commissioner determines necessary, purchase commercial policies, employ consultants, and otherwise administer the program. Any amounts held by the liability insurance or self-insurance funds which are available for investment shall be paid over to the Office of Treasury and Fiscal Services. The director of the Office of Treasury and Fiscal Services shall deposit such funds in trust accounts for credit only to the liability insurance and self-insurance funds. The director of the Office of Treasury and Fiscal Services shall invest the liability insurance and self-insurance funds subject to the limitations of Code Section 50-5A-7 and Chapter 17 of this title. All income derived from such investments shall accrue to the liability insurance and self-insurance funds. When moneys are paid over to the Office of Treasury and Fiscal Services, as provided in this Code section, the commissioner shall submit an estimate of the date such funds shall no longer be available for investment. When the commissioner wishes to withdraw funds from the trust account provided for in this Code section, he or she shall submit a request for such withdrawal, in writing, to the director of the Office of Treasury and Fiscal Services."

SECTION 8.

Said chapter is further amended by revising paragraph (6) of Code Section 50-5-51, relating to the power, authority, and duty of the Department of Administrative Services, as follows:

"(6) To procure all fidelity bonds covering state officials and employees required by law or administrative directive to give such bonds; and, in order to provide the bonds at a minimum expense to the state, the bonds may be procured under a master policy or policies providing insurance agreements on a group or blanket coverage basis with or without deductibles or excess coverage over the state's retention as determined by the

1 commissioner. Fidelity bonds covering state officials and employees which are procured
 2 pursuant to this paragraph shall expressly provide that all state officials and employees who
 3 are required by law to be bonded be named in the fidelity bond as insureds or beneficiaries
 4 under the terms of the fidelity bond. Inclusion of any state official, officer, or employee
 5 required by law or administrative directive to be specifically bonded in a master fidelity
 6 bond under the terms of this part shall satisfy any statutory requirement that the official,
 7 officer, or employee be bonded. Fidelity bonds procured pursuant to this paragraph shall
 8 also expressly provide for indemnification, out of the proceeds of the fidelity bonds, of all
 9 state officials and employees for any liability or expense of any nature resulting from a
 10 claim on the state official's or employee's bonds which is due to or as a result of an act of
 11 a subordinate of the state official or employee. In order to finance the continuing liability
 12 established with other agencies of state government, the commissioner is authorized to
 13 retain all moneys paid to the department as premiums on policies of insurance, all moneys
 14 received as interest, and all moneys received from other sources to set up and maintain a
 15 reserve for the payment of such liability and the expenses necessary to administer properly
 16 the insurance program. The commissioner is further authorized to establish incentive
 17 programs including differential premium rates based on participation in loss control
 18 programs established by the department, increased or decreased deductibles based on
 19 participation in loss control programs established by the department, and the imposition of
 20 finances and penalties. If any premiums, deductibles, fines, or penalties are unpaid, the
 21 department is authorized to deduct any unpaid amounts from the nonpaying agency's or
 22 authority's continuation budget subject to the approval of the Office of Planning and
 23 Budget and deposit those funds into the reserve fund provided for in this Code section. The
 24 commissioner shall invest the moneys in the same manner as other such moneys in his or
 25 her possession;"

26

SECTION 9.

27 Chapter 16 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to public property,
 28 is amended by revising Code Section 50-16-9, relating to the formulation of a self-insurance
 29 plan for the state's properties, as follows:

30 "50-16-9.

31 (a) The Department of Administrative Services may formulate and initiate a plan of
 32 self-insurance for the state's properties. The department shall cause:

33 (1) A complete appraisal to be made of all the state's insurable property as to value;

34 (2) A complete classification to be made of all the state's insurable property by type of
 35 risk; and

1 (3) A determination and recommendation to be made of the amount and extent of
 2 self-insurance which the state can assume, the necessary reserves needed, the minimum
 3 claim to be paid on each risk, ~~and the type of additional or excess insurance coverage that~~
 4 ~~may be required, the premiums to be charged, and any deductibles to be paid by state~~
 5 ~~agencies and authorities.~~

6 ~~(b) The department is further authorized to establish incentive programs, including~~
 7 ~~differential premium rates based on participation in loss control programs established by~~
 8 ~~the department, increased or decreased deductibles based on participation in loss control~~
 9 ~~programs established by the department, and the imposition of fines and penalties. If any~~
 10 ~~premiums, deductibles, fines, or penalties are unpaid, the department is authorized to~~
 11 ~~deduct any unpaid amounts from the nonpaying agency's or authority's continuation~~
 12 ~~budget subject to the approval of the Office of Planning and Budget and deposit those~~
 13 ~~funds into the state insurance and hazard reserve fund provided for in this chapter.~~

14 ~~(c) Upon the formulation of a plan of self-insurance based on the foregoing determinations~~
 15 ~~made and submitted by the Department of Administrative Services, the Governor, by~~
 16 ~~executive order, may establish and effectuate a plan of self-insurance; and the General~~
 17 ~~Assembly from time to time shall provide and maintain by appropriation an insurance~~
 18 ~~reserve fund."~~

19 SECTION 10.

20 Said chapter is further amended by repealing Code Section 50-16-10, relating to the
 21 formulation of a self-insurance plan for public school buildings, and designating said Code
 22 section as reserved.

23 SECTION 11.

24 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 50-16-11, relating to employment
 25 of personnel to carry out self-insurance plans, as follows:

26 "50-16-11.

27 The Department of Administrative Services is authorized and empowered to employ, as a
 28 regular member of its staff, ~~a person~~ persons with expert knowledge, training, and
 29 experience in underwriting and planning and such other personnel, including temporary
 30 professional insurance engineers and actuaries, as are necessary to carry out the details
 31 provided in Code ~~Sections~~ Section 50-16-9 ~~and 50-16-10."~~

32 SECTION 12.

33 Code Section 50-21-33, relating to liability insurance or self-insurance programs and
 34 additional coverages, is amended by revising subsection (d) as follows:

1 "(d) The Department of Administrative Services shall establish and charge to state
2 government entities such premiums, deductibles, and other payments, taking into account
3 any direct appropriations as shall be necessary to maintain the soundness of the insurance
4 or self-insurance programs established under this Code section. The premiums and
5 deductibles charged to each state government entity may be established on such basis as
6 the Department of Administrative Services shall deem appropriate and such basis may
7 include the number of employees, the aggregate annual budget of the state government
8 entity, and unique exposures, loss history, or claims pending against such state government
9 entity. The department is further authorized to establish incentive programs including but
10 not limited to differential premium rates based on participation in loss control programs
11 established by the department, increased or decreased deductibles based on participation
12 in loss control programs established by the department, and the imposition of fines and
13 penalties. If any premiums, deductibles, fines, or penalties are unpaid, the department is
14 authorized to deduct any unpaid amounts from the nonpaying agency's or authority's
15 continuation budget subject to the approval of the Office of Planning and Budget and
16 deposit those funds into the State Tort Claims Trust Fund provided for in this Code
17 section."

18 **SECTION 13.**

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