

Senate Bill 343

By: Senators Shafer of the 48th, Hudgens of the 47th, Mullis of the 53rd, Hawkins of the 49th, Powell of the 23rd and others

AS PASSED SENATE

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT**

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 10 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to obstruction of public administration and related offenses, so as to clarify that the
3 crime of impersonating an officer includes firefighters and public safety personnel; to amend
4 Article 3 of Chapter 11 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
5 personnel for emergency medical services, so as to modify the penalty for persons falsely
6 representing themselves to be emergency medical personnel; to provide for related matters;
7 to provide for an effective date and applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
8 purposes.

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

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 Article 2 of Chapter 10 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
12 obstruction of public administration and related offenses, is amended by revising Code
13 Section 16-10-23, relating to impersonating a public officer or employee, as follows:

14 "16-10-23.

15 A person who falsely holds himself or herself out as a peace officer, firefighter, including
16 a volunteer firefighter, public safety official, or other public officer or employee with intent
17 to mislead another into believing that he or she is actually such officer commits the offense
18 of impersonating an officer and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not
19 more than \$1,000.00 or by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than five years, or
20 both."

21 **SECTION 2.**

22 Article 3 of Chapter 11 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
23 personnel for emergency medical services, is amended by revising Code Section 31-11-61,
24 relating to penalties for a person representing himself or herself as an emergency medical
25 services personnel, as follows:

26 "31-11-61.

27 Any person who shall falsely represent himself or herself to be a certified emergency
28 medical technician, certified cardiac technician, or certified paramedic or who shall accept
29 or continue in employment as such and perform the duties thereof without being certified
30 as prescribed by this chapter shall be ~~guilty of a misdemeanor~~ punished by a fine of not
31 more than \$1,000.00 or by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than five years, or
32 both."

33 **SECTION 3.**

34 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2010, and shall apply to all offenses committed
35 on or after such date.

36 **SECTION 4.**

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