

House Bill 90

By: Representatives Powell of the 29th, Bearden of the 68th, and Levitas of the 82nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 1 of Title 28 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 general provisions concerning the General Assembly, so as to provide that each house of the
3 General Assembly may by rule authorize the standing and special committees and
4 subcommittees of that house to place witnesses under oath who come before such
5 committees and subcommittees and present testimony; to provide penalties for false
6 testimony before such committees and subcommittees; to provide for related matters; to
7 provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Chapter 1 of Title 28 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general
11 provisions concerning the General Assembly, is amended by adding a new Code section to
12 read as follows:

13 "28-1-18.

14 (a) Each house of the General Assembly may by rule authorize the presiding officer of
15 each standing and special committee and subcommittee of such house to administer an oath
16 to persons testifying before such committee or subcommittee for such person to swear or
17 affirm that such person shall testify truthfully. Each house may adopt by rule such
18 procedures and requirements as the house deems appropriate for placing witnesses under
19 oath.

20 (b)(1) A person to whom a lawful oath or affirmation has been administered commits the
21 offense of false testimony before the General Assembly when, in testifying before a
22 committee or subcommittee of the Senate or the House of Representatives, such person
23 knowingly and willfully makes a false statement material to the issue or point in question.

24 (2) A person convicted of the offense of false testimony before the General Assembly
25 shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000.00 or by imprisonment for not less
26 than one nor more than ten years, or both."

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SECTION 2.

28 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
29 without such approval.

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SECTION 3.

31 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.