

House Bill 124

By: Representatives Day of the 163rd, Talton of the 145th, Frazier of the 123rd, Horne of the 71st, and Neal of the 1st

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 35-5-5 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 Georgia Public Safety Training Center, so as to make the center and regional police
3 academies available for certain public safety training; to amend Code Section 36-20-4 of the
4 Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the training of elected members of county
5 governing authorities, so as to require newly elected members of a county governing
6 authority to satisfactorily complete a comprehensive public safety training course to better
7 prepare officials for responding to a state of public emergency; to amend Code Section
8 36-45-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the training of elected
9 members of municipal governing authorities, so as to require newly elected members of a
10 municipal governing authority to satisfactorily complete a comprehensive public safety
11 training course to better prepare officials for responding to a state of public emergency; to
12 provide for contingencies; to provide an effective date; to provide for related matters; to
13 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

15 **SECTION 1.**

16 Code Section 35-5-5 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Georgia
17 Public Safety Training Center, is amended by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

18 "(e) Provided that space is reasonably available, the Georgia Public Safety Training Center
19 and regional police academies shall make class room space available free of charge for
20 providing public safety instruction to local public officials as required by Code Sections
21 36-20-4 and 36-45-4."

22 **SECTION 2.**

23 Code Section 36-20-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the training of
24 elected members of county governing authorities, is amended by adding a new subsection
25 to read as follows:

26 “(c) In addition to the training requirements found in subsection (a) of this Code section
27 and subject to the appropriation of funds by the General Assembly or grants or other funds
28 available to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency, any person newly elected as a
29 member of a county governing authority shall enroll in, attend, and satisfactorily complete
30 a public safety course of training and instruction on matters pertaining to local
31 preparedness to a natural or manmade disaster, pandemic, or epidemic, crisis response team
32 development, site surveys and safety audits, crisis management planning, exercise design,
33 safe school planning, emergency operations planning, bomb threat management, model
34 safety plans, and similar instruction related to responding in a state of public emergency.
35 The course of instruction shall include matters related to chain of command and methods
36 of communication. Such training shall be conducted at facilities of the Georgia Public
37 Safety Training Center or regional police academies. The training shall be conducted by
38 the University of Georgia under the supervision of the Carl Vinson Institute of Government
39 at such time as shall be determined by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government. The
40 training curriculum for such course of instruction shall be approved and developed by the
41 Georgia Emergency Management Agency with the assistance of the Georgia Bureau of
42 Investigation and the Department of Public Safety. The personnel of the Carl Vinson
43 Institute of Government are authorized to work with the members of county governing
44 authorities, the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia, the Georgia Emergency
45 Management Agency, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, and the Georgia Department
46 of Public Safety in establishing and operating the training course required by this
47 subsection and in establishing the rules and regulations governing attendance of such
48 training. All reasonable expenses of attending the training class required by this Code
49 section shall be paid through the Georgia Emergency Management Agency.”

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SECTION 3.

51 Code Section 36-45-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the training of
52 elected members of municipal governing authorities, is amended by adding a new subsection
53 to read as follows:

54 “(c) In addition to the training requirements found in subsection (a) of this Code section
55 and subject to the appropriation of funds by the General Assembly or grants or other funds
56 available to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency, any person newly elected as a
57 member of a municipal governing authority shall enroll in, attend, and satisfactorily
58 complete a public safety course of training and instruction on matters pertaining to local
59 preparedness to a natural or manmade disaster, pandemic, or epidemic, crisis response team
60 development, site surveys and safety audits, crisis management planning, exercise design,
61 safe school planning, emergency operations planning, bomb threat management, model

62 safety plans, and similar instruction related to responding in a state of public emergency.
63 The course of instruction shall include matters related to chain of command and methods
64 of communication. Such training shall be conducted at facilities of the Georgia Public
65 Safety Training Center or regional police academies. The training shall be conducted by
66 the University of Georgia under the supervision of the Carl Vinson Institute of Government
67 at such time as shall be determined by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government. The
68 training curriculum for such course of instruction shall be approved and developed by the
69 Georgia Emergency Management Agency with the assistance of the Georgia Bureau of
70 Investigation and Department of Public Safety. The personnel of the Carl Vinson Institute
71 of Government are authorized to work with the members of municipal governing
72 authorities, the Municipal Association Georgia, the Georgia Emergency Management
73 Agency, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, and Department of Public Safety in
74 establishing and operating the training course required by this subsection and in
75 establishing the rules and regulations governing attendance of such training. All reasonable
76 expenses of attending the training class required by this Code section shall be paid through
77 the Georgia Emergency Management Agency."

78 **SECTION 4.**

79 This Act shall become effective on November 30, 2009.

80 **SECTION 5.**

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