

House Bill 420

By: Representatives Day of the 163<sup>rd</sup>, Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, Bryant of the 160<sup>th</sup>, Carter of the 159<sup>th</sup>, Stephens of the 161<sup>st</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 3 of Title 30 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to access  
2 to and use of public facilities by persons with disabilities, so as to require that sport shooting  
3 ranges are accessible to persons in wheelchairs; to clarify definitions so as to include sport  
4 shooting ranges as a facility required to be accessible to persons in wheelchairs; to provide  
5 for legislative findings; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date and  
6 applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 The General Assembly finds and determines that:

- 10 (1) The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees to all persons  
11 the right to keep and bear arms and that this right shall not be infringed;
- 12 (2) The right to possess weapons should be protected in a manner that treats all persons  
13 equally, including persons with physical disabilities;
- 14 (3) Twenty percent of the population is estimated to have a disability of some degree;
- 15 (4) In order for persons with disabilities to be able to fully exercise their right to bear  
16 arms, sport shooting ranges should not be permitted to discriminate against persons with  
17 physical limitations where such persons are otherwise able to safely and lawfully carry  
18 a firearm; and
- 19 (5) Equal access to sport shooting ranges by persons who are wheelchair bound offers  
20 such disabled persons physical exercise options, enables them to protect themselves, and  
21 otherwise provides an opportunity for disabled persons to increase their quality of life.

22 **SECTION 2.**

23 Chapter 3 of Title 30 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to access to and use  
24 of public facilities by persons with disabilities, is amended by revising paragraph (6) of Code

25 Section 30-3-2, relating to definitions pertaining to access to and use of public facilities by  
26 persons with disabilities, as follows:

27 "(6) 'Facilities' shall include, but is not limited to, walkways, sidewalks, curbing, sport shooting ranges,  
28 parking lots, parks, sport shooting ranges, stadiums, coliseums, and any other manmade  
29 or developed area used by the public."

30 **SECTION 3.**

31 Said chapter is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

32 "30-3-6.1.

33 On and after July 1, 2009, no county, municipal, or other local government entity shall  
34 issue, grant, or renew a business license or operating permit to a sport shooting range or  
35 owner or operator of a sport shooting range that fails to make such facility accessible to  
36 persons in wheelchairs."

37 **SECTION 4.**

38 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2009, and shall apply to violations occurring on  
39 or after such date.

40 **SECTION 5.**

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