

House Bill 235 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Powell of the 171<sup>st</sup> and Lindsey of the 54<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 18 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to court reports, so as to remove the requirement of publishing a volume of rules  
3 from the definition of reports; to provide for the maintenance of a rules compilation; to  
4 provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for  
5 other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 2 of Chapter 18 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
9 court reports, is amended by revising Code Section 50-18-20, relating to definitions  
10 pertaining to court reports, as follows:

11 "50-18-20.

12 As used in this article, the term:

13 (1) 'Publisher' means the state publisher of court reports who has been awarded the  
14 contract as defined in this article.

15 (2) 'Reporter' means the reporter of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals whose  
16 duties are set forth in Chapter 4 of Title 15.

17 (3) 'Reports' means the official reports of the decisions of the Supreme Court or of the  
18 Court of Appeals, together with the usual title pages, indexes, etc., as well as the advance  
19 reports of the decisions of each court, ~~and a volume~~

20 (4) 'Rules compilation' means a compilation of rules applicable in the courts of this state.

21 The rules ~~volume~~ compilation shall include the Rules of the Supreme Court, the Rules  
22 of the Court of Appeals, the Unified Appeal, the Uniform Transfer Rules, the Uniform  
23 Rules for the various classes of courts, the Rules of the Judicial Qualifications  
24 Commission, the Code of Judicial Conduct, the Bar Admissions Rules, the Rules for  
25 Sentence Review Panel, the Rules and Regulations for the Organization and Government  
26 of the State Bar of Georgia, and any other rules or amendments as promulgated by the

27 Supreme Court or the Court of Appeals, together with all applicable forms, ~~title pages,~~  
 28 ~~indexes, etc. The rules volume shall consist of a post binder which will be updated~~  
 29 ~~periodically."~~

30 **SECTION 2.**

31 Said article is further amended by revising Code Section 50-18-26, relating to the content and  
 32 appearance of reports and number of volumes per year, as follows:

33 "50-18-26.

34 (a) The reports shall contain the decisions rendered in all cases presented to the Supreme  
 35 Court of Georgia and to the Court of Appeals of Georgia, ~~an index of all cases reported,~~  
 36 ~~the rules and forms described in paragraph (3) of Code Section 50-18-20,~~ and an index of  
 37 all cases reported ~~and all rules reported~~. No report shall contain any argument or brief of  
 38 counsel beyond a statement of the major points and authorities.

39 (b) The reporter has the duty to ascertain that the reports, ~~with the exception of the rules~~  
 40 ~~volume,~~ are uniform in size and appearance. Whenever it becomes necessary, due to a  
 41 variance in the number of decisions rendered, the reporter, in order to maintain the desired  
 42 uniformity, may provide for the production of more than one volume from either court in  
 43 any one year or may consolidate decisions of either court from two different years into one  
 44 volume, but in no case shall the decisions of the Supreme Court be combined in one  
 45 volume with the decisions of the Court of Appeals."

46 **SECTION 3.**

47 Said article is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 50-18-27, relating  
 48 to the responsibilities of the reporter, as follows:

49 "(a) The reporter shall furnish to the publisher the manuscript of the decisions, ~~rules, and~~  
 50 ~~forms,~~ read the proof and correct the same, and furnish for each volume an index of the  
 51 cases reported."

52 **SECTION 4.**

53 Said article is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

54 "50-18-37.

55 The reporter shall publish a rules compilation in electronic format that is made accessible  
 56 to the public through the Internet or other suitable electronic methods and shall update the  
 57 rules compilation as necessary."

58

**SECTION 5.**

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

61

**SECTION 6.**

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