

Senate Bill 273

By: Senator Brown of the 26th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 12 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to general provisions of law applicable to the Governor, so as to provide that it shall
3 be unlawful and a violation of oath of office for the Governor-elect or Governor to engage
4 in seeking or accepting campaign contributions; to provide an exception for purposes of
5 retiring campaign debt; to restrict the making or accepting of certain contributions for retiring
6 campaign debt; to prohibit the acceptance of certain gifts; to provide for violations; to
7 provide for enforcement by the State Ethics Commission; to provide for related matters; to
8 provide for a contingent effective date and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and
9 for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 Article 1 of Chapter 12 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
13 general provisions of law applicable to the Governor, is amended by adding a new Code
14 section to read as follows:

15 "45-12-8.

16 (a) As used in this Code section, the terms 'person,' 'corporation,' 'political committee,' and
17 'political party' have the same meaning as provided by Code Section 21-5-40.

18 (b) No Governor-elect or Governor shall seek or accept a campaign contribution or a
19 pledge of a campaign contribution to himself or herself or any other public officer or
20 candidate for public office during the period beginning with his or her election and ending
21 with the end of his or her term of office as Governor, except for purposes of retiring debt
22 of his or her own preceding campaign for Governor.

23 (c) In addition to the limitations imposed by Code Section 21-5-41, on or after the date of
24 certification of election of a Governor:

25 (1) No Governor-elect or Governor shall accept from any person or corporation any
26 contributions to retire debt of the immediately preceding campaign for Governor which
27 in the aggregate exceed \$500.00 for such person or corporation; and
28 (2) No Governor-elect or Governor shall accept from any political committee or political
29 party any contributions to retire debt of the immediately preceding campaign of such
30 person for Governor.
31 (d) No Governor shall accept any gift of any amount from any person other than his or her
32 spouse, child, sibling, or parent. Reimbursement of expenses authorized by Code Section
33 21-5-11 shall not be a gift for purposes of this subsection.
34 (e) It shall be unlawful and a violation of oath of office for the Governor-elect or Governor
35 to violate subsection (b), (c), or (d) of this Code section.
36 (f) The State Ethics Commission shall have the authority to enforce this Code section in
37 the same manner as it enforces the provisions of Chapter 5 of Title 21; and any violation
38 of this Code section shall be punishable in the same manner as a violation of Chapter 5 of
39 Title 21."

40 **SECTION 2.**

41 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2011, only if there is ratified at the 2010
42 general election a constitutional amendment to provide that the Governor shall serve a
43 six-year term of office and shall not be eligible to succeed himself or herself. If such a
44 constitutional amendment is not so ratified, this Act shall be repealed by operation of law on
45 January 1, 2011.

46 **SECTION 3.**

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