09 LC 35 1367

Senate Bill 281

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Rogers of the 21st and Seabaugh of the 28th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

- 1 To amend Code Section 16-11-127 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
- 2 carrying deadly weapons to or at public gatherings and affirmative defenses, so as to
- 3 authorize churches to determine for themselves whether to permit or exclude persons
- 4 licensed or permitted to carry firearms to carry firearms on church premises or at church
- 5 functions; to authorize persons licensed or permitted to carry firearms to carry firearms on
- 6 church premises or at church functions; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective
- 7 date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

- 10 Code Section 16-11-127 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to carrying
- deadly weapons to or at public gatherings and affirmative defenses, is amended by revising
- 12 subsections (b) and (e) as follows:

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- 13 "(b) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this Code section, for For the purpose of this
- 14 Code section, 'public gathering' shall include, but shall not be limited to, athletic or sporting
- events, churches or church functions, political rallies or functions, publicly owned or
- operated buildings, or establishments at which alcoholic beverages are sold for
- 17 consumption on the premises and which derive less than 50 percent of their total annual
- gross food and beverage sales from the sale of prepared meals or food. Nothing in this
- 19 Code section shall otherwise prohibit the carrying of a firearm in any other public place by
- a person licensed or permitted to carry such firearm by this part."
- 21 "(e) A person licensed or permitted to carry a firearm by this part shall be permitted to
- 22 carry such firearm, subject to the limitations of this part, at all church functions, and in all
- parks, churches, historic sites, and recreational areas, including all publicly owned
- buildings located in such parks, historic sites, and recreational areas and in wildlife
- 25 management areas, notwithstanding Code Section 12-3-10, in wildlife management areas
- 26 notwithstanding Code Section Sections 27-3-1.1 and 27-3-6, and in public transportation

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- 27 notwithstanding Code Sections 16-12-122 through 16-12-127; provided, however, that a
- person shall not carry a firearm into a place prohibited by federal law."

29 SECTION 2.

- 30 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
- 31 without such approval.

32 SECTION 3.

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