

Senate Bill 38

By: Senator Harp of the 29th

AS PASSED

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 16 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to death investigations by coroners, so as to clarify that the Georgia Bureau of
3 Investigations has jurisdiction over the post mortem examination or autopsy on persons
4 whose death occurs on certain state property; to provide for the training of canine service
5 dogs for the purpose of body recovery and rescue of persons; to provide for related matters;
6 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 2 of Chapter 16 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
10 death investigations by coroners, is amended in Code Section 45-16-25, relating to duties of
11 a coroner or county medical examiner upon receipt of notice of suspicious or unusual death,
12 authority to embalm a body, identification, inventory and disposition of a deceased's
13 property, and use of a deceased's property for evidence, by adding a new subsection to read
14 as follows:

15 "(d) The Georgia Bureau of Investigation is authorized to perform a post mortem
16 examination and autopsy on a person whose death occurs within a state owned or leased
17 building or on the curtilage of such building. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation shall
18 have jurisdiction relating to the investigation of such a death, and this authority and
19 jurisdiction shall supersede any other authority or jurisdiction provided for by this article
20 relating to a post mortem examination or autopsy."

21 **SECTION 2.**

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

23 "45-16-50.

24 A medical examiner within the state of Georgia is authorized to provide to an approved
25 canine instructor or school certain biological substances such as human blood or bodily
26 fluids for the sole purpose of utilizing such substances for the training and handling of
27 police canines in body recovery of human remains or rescue of persons. Such biological
28 substances shall be contained and transported in accordance with appropriate health and
29 safety standards."

30 **SECTION 3.**

31 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.