

The House Committee on Judiciary offers the following substitute to HB 24:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend the Official Code of Georgia Annotated so as to substantially revise, supersede,
2 and modernize provisions relating to evidence; to provide for legislative findings; to provide
3 for definitions; to provide for general provisions; to provide for judicial notice; to provide
4 for parol evidence; to provide for admission of relevant evidence; to provide for testimonial
5 privileges; to provide for competency of witnesses; to provide for opinions and expert
6 testimony; to provide for and define hearsay; to provide for authentication and identification
7 of writings, recordings, and photographs; to provide for the best evidence rule; to provide for
8 establishment of lost records; to provide for medical and other confidential information; to
9 provide for securing attendance of witnesses and production and preservation of evidence;
10 to provide for proof generally; to amend Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
11 relating to law enforcement officers and agencies, so as to move provisions relating to DNA
12 analysis of persons convicted of certain crimes from Title 24 to Title 35; to change
13 provisions relating to foreign language interpreters and interpreters for the hearing impaired;
14 to amend the Official Code of Georgia Annotated so as to conform provisions to the new
15 Title 24 and correct cross-references; to provide for effective dates and applicability; to
16 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

18 **SECTION 1.**

19 It is the intent of the General Assembly in enacting this Act to adopt the Federal Rules of
20 Evidence, as interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States and the United States
21 circuit courts of appeal as of January 1, 2013, to the extent that such interpretation is
22 consistent with the Constitution of Georgia. Where conflicts were found to exist among the
23 decisions of the various circuit courts of appeal interpreting the federal rules of evidence, the
24 General Assembly considered the decisions of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. It is the
25 intent of the General Assembly to revise, modernize, and reenact the general laws of this
26 state relating to evidence while adopting, in large measure, the Federal Rules of Evidence.

H. B. 24 (SUB)

27 The General Assembly is cognizant that there are many issues regarding evidence that are
 28 not covered by the Federal Rules of Evidence and in those situations the former provisions
 29 of Title 24 have been retained. Unless displaced by the particular provisions of this Act, the
 30 General Assembly intends that the substantive law of evidence in Georgia as it existed on
 31 December 31, 2012, be retained.

32 **SECTION 2.**

33 The Official Code of Georgia Annotated is amended by repealing in its entirety Title 24,
 34 relating to evidence, and enacting a new Title 24 to read as follows:

35 "TITLE 24

36 CHAPTER 1

37 ARTICLE 1

38 24-1-1.

39 The object of all legal investigation is the discovery of truth. Rules of evidence shall be
 40 construed to secure fairness in administration, eliminate unjustifiable expense and delay,
 41 and promote the growth and development of the law of evidence to the end that the truth
 42 may be ascertained and proceedings justly determined.

43 24-1-2.

44 (a) The rules of evidence shall apply in all trials by jury in any court in this state.

45 (b) The rules of evidence shall apply generally to all nonjury trials and other fact-finding
 46 proceedings of any court in this state subject to the limitations set forth in subsections (c)
 47 and (d) of this Code section.

48 (c) The rules of evidence, except those with respect to privileges, shall not apply in the
 49 following situations:

50 (1) The determination of questions of fact preliminary to admissibility of evidence when
 51 the issue is to be determined by the court under Code Section 24-1-104;

52 (2) Criminal proceedings before grand juries;

53 (3) Proceedings for extradition or rendition;

54 (4) Proceedings for revoking parole;

55 (5) Proceedings for the issuance of warrants for arrest and search warrants except as
 56 provided by subsection (b) of Code Section 17-4-40;

57 (6) Proceedings with respect to release on bond;

58 (7) Dispositional hearings and custody hearings in juvenile court; or

59 (8) Contempt proceedings in which the court, pursuant to subsection (a) of Code Section
 60 15-1-4, may act summarily.

61 (d)(1) In criminal commitment or preliminary hearings in any court, the rules of evidence
 62 shall apply except that hearsay shall be admissible.

63 (2) In in rem forfeiture proceedings, the rules of evidence shall apply except that hearsay
 64 shall be admissible in determining probable cause or reasonable cause.

65 (3) In presentence hearings, the rules of evidence shall apply except that hearsay and
 66 character evidence shall be admissible.

67 (4) In administrative hearings, the rules of evidence as applied in the trial of nonjury civil
 68 actions shall be followed, subject to special statutory rules or agency rules as authorized
 69 by law.

70 (e) Except as modified by statute, the common law as expounded by Georgia courts shall
 71 continue to be applied to the admission and exclusion of evidence and to procedures at
 72 trial.

73 ARTICLE 2

74 24-1-101.

75 Reserved.

76 24-1-102.

77 Reserved.

78 24-1-103.

79 (a) Error shall not be predicated upon a ruling which admits or excludes evidence unless
 80 a substantial right of the party is affected and:

81 (1) In case the ruling is one admitting evidence, a timely objection or motion to strike
 82 appears of record, stating the specific ground of objection, if the specific ground was not
 83 apparent from the context; or

84 (2) In case the ruling is one excluding evidence, the substance of the evidence was made
 85 known to the court by an offer of proof or was apparent from the context within which
 86 questions were asked.

87 Once the court makes a definitive ruling on the record admitting or excluding any evidence,
 88 either at or before trial, a party need not renew an objection or offer of proof to preserve
 89 such claim of error for appeal.

90 (b) The court shall accord the parties adequate opportunity to state grounds for objections
 91 and present offers of proof. The court may add any other or further statement which shows

92 the character of the evidence, the form in which it was offered, the objection made, and the
93 ruling thereon. The court may direct the making of an offer of proof in question and
94 answer form.

95 (c) Jury proceedings shall be conducted, to the extent practicable, so as to prevent
96 inadmissible evidence from being suggested to the jury by any means, including, but not
97 limited to, making statements or offers of proof or asking questions in the hearing of the
98 jury.

99 (d) Nothing in this Code section shall preclude a court from taking notice of plain errors
100 affecting substantial rights although such errors were not brought to the attention of the
101 court.

102 24-1-104.

103 (a) Preliminary questions concerning the qualification of a person to be a witness, the
104 existence of a privilege, or the admissibility of evidence shall be determined by the court,
105 subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this Code section. In making its
106 determination, the court shall not be bound by the rules of evidence except those with
107 respect to privileges. Preliminary questions shall be resolved by a preponderance of the
108 evidence standard.

109 (b) When the relevancy of evidence depends upon the fulfillment of a condition of fact,
110 the court shall admit it upon, or subject to, the introduction of evidence sufficient to support
111 a finding of the fulfillment of the condition.

112 (c) Hearings on the admissibility of confessions shall in all cases be conducted out of the
113 hearing of the jury. Hearings on other preliminary matters shall be conducted out of the
114 hearing of the jury when the interests of justice require or when an accused is a witness and
115 requests a hearing outside the presence of the jury.

116 (d) The accused shall not, by testifying upon a preliminary matter, become subject to
117 cross-examination as to other issues in the proceeding.

118 (e) This Code section shall not limit the right of a party to introduce before the jury
119 evidence relevant to weight or credibility.

120 24-1-105.

121 When evidence which is admissible as to one party or for one purpose but which is not
122 admissible as to another party or for another purpose is admitted, the court, upon request,
123 shall restrict the evidence to its proper scope and instruct the jury accordingly.

124 24-1-106.

125 When a writing or recorded statement or part thereof is introduced by a party, an adverse
 126 party may require the introduction at that time of any other part or any other writing or
 127 recorded statement which, in fairness, should be considered contemporaneously with the
 128 writing or recorded statement.

129 CHAPTER 2

130 ARTICLE 1

131 24-2-201.

132 (a) This Code section governs only judicial notice of adjudicative facts.

133 (b) A judicially noticed fact shall be a fact which is not subject to reasonable dispute in
 134 that it is either:

135 (1) Generally known within the territorial jurisdiction of the court; or

136 (2) Capable of accurate and ready determination by resort to sources whose accuracy
 137 cannot reasonably be questioned.

138 (c) A court may take judicial notice, whether or not requested by a party.

139 (d) A court shall take judicial notice if requested by a party and provided with the
 140 necessary information.

141 (e) A party shall be entitled, upon timely request, to an opportunity to be heard as to the
 142 propriety of taking judicial notice and the tenor of the matter noticed. In the absence of
 143 prior notification, such request may be made after judicial notice has been taken.

144 (f) Judicial notice may be taken at any stage of the proceeding.

145 (g)(1) In a civil proceeding, the court shall instruct the jury to accept as conclusive any
 146 fact judicially noticed.

147 (2) In a criminal proceeding, the court shall instruct the jury that it may, but is not
 148 required to, accept as conclusive any fact judicially noticed.

149 ARTICLE 2

150 24-2-220.

151 The existence and territorial extent of states and their forms of government; all symbols of
 152 nationality; the laws of nations; all laws and resolutions of the General Assembly and the
 153 journals of each branch thereof as published by authority; the laws of the United States and
 154 of the several states thereof as published by authority; the uniform rules of the courts; the
 155 administrative rules and regulations filed with the Secretary of State pursuant to Code
 156 Section 50-13-6; the general customs of merchants; the admiralty and maritime courts of

157 the world and their seals; the political makeup and history of this state and the federal
158 government as well as the local divisions of this state; the seals of the several departments
159 of the government of the United States and of the several states of the union; and all similar
160 matters of legislative fact shall be judicially recognized without the introduction of proof.
161 Judicial notice of adjudicative facts shall be governed by Code Section 24-2-201.

162 24-2-221.

163 When certified by a public officer, clerk, or keeper of county or municipal records in this
164 state in a manner as specified for county records in Code Section 24-9-920 or in a manner
165 as specified for municipal records in paragraph (1) or (2) of Code Section 24-9-902 and in
166 the absence of contrary evidence, judicial notice may be taken of a certified copy of any
167 ordinance or resolution included within a general codification required by paragraph (1)
168 of subsection (b) of Code Section 36-80-19 as representing an ordinance or resolution duly
169 approved by the governing authority and currently in force as presented. Any such
170 certified copy shall be self-authenticating and shall be admissible as prima-facie proof of
171 any such ordinance or resolution before any court or administrative body.

172 CHAPTER 3

173 24-3-1.

174 Parol contemporaneous evidence shall be generally inadmissible to contradict or vary the
175 terms of a valid written instrument.

176 24-3-2.

177 If the writing does not purport to contain all the stipulations of the contract, parol evidence
178 shall be admissible to prove other portions thereof not inconsistent with the writing;
179 collateral undertakings between parties of the same part among themselves would not
180 properly be looked for in the writing.

181 24-3-3.

182 (a) All contemporaneous writings shall be admissible to explain each other.

183 (b) Parol evidence shall be admissible to explain all ambiguities, both latent and patent.

184 24-3-4.

185 The surrounding circumstances shall always be proper subjects of proof to aid in the
186 construction of contracts.

187 24-3-5.

188 Evidence of known and established usage shall be admissible to aid in the construction of
189 contracts as well as to annex incidents.

190 24-3-6.

191 Parol evidence shall be admissible to rebut an equity, to discharge an entire contract, to
192 prove a new and distinct subsequent agreement, to enlarge the time of performance, or to
193 change the place of performance.

194 24-3-7.

195 Parol evidence shall be admissible to prove a mistake in a deed or any other contract
196 required by law to be in writing.

197 24-3-8.

198 Parol evidence shall be admissible to show that a writing either was originally void or
199 subsequently became void.

200 24-3-9.

201 Receipts for money shall always be only prima-facie evidence of payment and may be
202 denied or explained by parol.

203 24-3-10.

204 Blank endorsements of negotiable paper may always be explained between the parties
205 themselves or those taking with notice of dishonor or of the actual facts of such
206 endorsements.

207 CHAPTER 4

208 24-4-401.

209 As used in this chapter, the term 'relevant evidence' means evidence having any tendency
210 to make the existence of any fact that is of consequence to the determination of the action
211 more probable or less probable than it would be without the evidence.

212 24-4-402.

213 All relevant evidence shall be admissible, except as limited by constitutional requirements
214 or as otherwise provided by law or by other rules, as prescribed pursuant to constitutional

215 or statutory authority, applicable in the court in which the matter is pending. Evidence
216 which is not relevant shall not be admissible.

217 24-4-403.

218 Relevant evidence may be excluded if its probative value is substantially outweighed by
219 the danger of unfair prejudice, confusion of the issues, or misleading the jury or by
220 considerations of undue delay, waste of time, or needless presentation of cumulative
221 evidence.

222 24-4-404.

223 (a) Evidence of a person's character or a trait of character shall not be admissible for the
224 purpose of proving action in conformity therewith on a particular occasion, except for:

225 (1) Evidence of a pertinent trait of character offered by an accused or by the prosecution
226 to rebut the same; or if evidence of a trait of character of the alleged victim of the crime
227 is offered by an accused and admitted under paragraph (2) of this subsection, evidence
228 of the same trait of character of the accused offered by the prosecution;

229 (2) Subject to the limitations imposed by Code Section 24-4-412, evidence of a pertinent
230 trait of character of the alleged victim of the crime offered by an accused or by the
231 prosecution to rebut the same; or evidence of a character trait of peacefulness of the
232 alleged victim offered by the prosecution in a homicide case to rebut evidence that the
233 alleged victim was the first aggressor; or

234 (3) Evidence of the character of a witness, as provided in Code Sections 24-6-607,
235 24-6-608, and 24-6-609.

236 (b) Evidence of other crimes, wrongs, or acts shall not be admissible to prove the character
237 of a person in order to show action in conformity therewith. It may, however, be
238 admissible for other purposes, including, but not limited to, proof of motive, opportunity,
239 intent, preparation, plan, knowledge, identity, or absence of mistake or accident. The
240 prosecution in a criminal proceeding shall provide reasonable notice to the defense in
241 advance of trial, unless pretrial notice is excused by the court upon good cause shown, of
242 the general nature of any such evidence it intends to introduce at trial. Notice shall not be
243 required when the evidence of prior crimes, wrongs, or acts is offered to prove the
244 circumstances immediately surrounding the charged crime, motive, or prior difficulties
245 between the accused and the alleged victim.

246 24-4-405.

247 (a) In all proceedings in which evidence of character or a trait of character of a person is
 248 admissible, proof shall be made by testimony as to reputation or by testimony in the form
 249 of an opinion.

250 (b) In proceedings in which character or a trait of character of a person is an essential
 251 element of a charge, claim, or defense or when an accused testifies to his or her own
 252 character, proof may also be made of specific instances of that person's conduct. The
 253 character of the accused, including specific instances of the accused's conduct, shall also
 254 be admissible in a presentencing hearing subject to the provisions of Code Section 17-10-2.

255 (c) On cross-examination, inquiry shall be allowable into relevant specific instances of
 256 conduct.

257 24-4-406.

258 Evidence of the habit of a person or of the routine practice of an organization, whether
 259 corroborated or not and regardless of the presence of eyewitnesses, is relevant to prove that
 260 the conduct of the person or organization on a particular occasion was in conformity with
 261 such habit or routine practice.

262 24-4-407.

263 In civil proceedings, when, after an injury or harm, remedial measures are taken to make
 264 such injury or harm less likely to recur, evidence of the remedial measures shall not be
 265 admissible to prove negligence or culpable conduct but may be admissible to prove product
 266 liability under subsection (b) or (c) of Code Section 51-1-11. The provisions of this Code
 267 section shall not require the exclusion of evidence of remedial measures when offered for
 268 impeachment or for another purpose, including, but not limited to, proving ownership,
 269 control, or feasibility of precautionary measures, if controverted.

270 24-4-408.

271 (a) Except as provided in Code Section 9-11-68, evidence of:

272 (1) Furnishing, offering, or promising to furnish; or

273 (2) Accepting, offering, or promising to accept

274 a valuable consideration in compromising or attempting to compromise a claim which was
 275 disputed as to either validity or amount shall not be admissible to prove liability for or
 276 invalidity of any claim or its amount.

277 (b) Evidence of conduct or statements made in compromise negotiations or mediation shall
 278 not be admissible.

279 (c) This Code section shall not require the exclusion of any evidence otherwise
 280 discoverable merely because it is presented in the course of compromise negotiations or
 281 mediation. This Code section shall not require exclusion of evidence offered for another
 282 purpose, including, but not limited to, proving bias or prejudice of a witness, negating a
 283 contention of undue delay or abuse of process, or proving an effort to obstruct a criminal
 284 investigation or prosecution.

285 24-4-409.

286 Evidence of furnishing, offering, or promising to pay medical, hospital, or similar expenses
 287 occasioned by an injury shall not be admissible to prove liability for the injury.

288 24-4-410.

289 Except as otherwise provided by law, evidence of the following shall not, in any judicial
 290 or administrative proceeding, be admissible against the criminal defendant who made the
 291 plea or was a participant in the plea discussions:

292 (1) A plea of guilty which was later withdrawn;

293 (2) A plea of nolo contendere;

294 (3) Any statement made in the course of any proceedings in which a guilty plea or a plea
 295 of nolo contendere was entered and was later withdrawn, vacated, or set aside; or

296 (4) Any statement made in the course of plea discussions with an attorney for the
 297 prosecuting authority which does not result in a plea of guilty or which results in a plea
 298 of guilty later withdrawn, vacated, or set aside;

299 provided, however, that the statements described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of this Code
 300 section shall be admissible in any proceeding wherein another statement made in the course
 301 of the same plea or plea discussions has been introduced and the statement ought in fairness
 302 be considered contemporaneously with it or in a criminal proceeding for perjury or false
 303 statement if the statement was made by the accused under oath, on the record, and in the
 304 presence of counsel or after the accused voluntarily waived his or her right to counsel.

305 24-4-411.

306 In all civil proceedings involving a claim for damages, evidence that a person was or was
 307 not insured against liability shall not be admissible except as provided in this Code section.

308 This Code section shall not require the exclusion of evidence of insurance against liability
 309 in proceedings under Code Section 46-7-12 or when such evidence is offered for a relevant
 310 purpose, including, but not limited to, proof of agency, ownership, or control, and the court
 311 finds that the danger of unfair prejudice is substantially outweighed by the probative value
 312 of the evidence.

313 24-4-412.

314 (a) In any prosecution for rape in violation of Code Section 16-6-1; aggravated assault
315 with the intent to rape in violation of Code Section 16-5-21; aggravated sodomy or sodomy
316 in violation of Code Section 16-6-2; statutory rape in violation of Code Section 16-6-3;
317 aggravated child molestation or child molestation in violation of Code Section 16-6-4;
318 incest in violation of Code Section 16-6-22; sexual battery in violation of Code Section
319 16-6-22.1; or aggravated sexual battery in violation of Code Section 16-6-22.2, evidence
320 relating to the past sexual behavior of the complaining witness shall not be admissible,
321 either as direct evidence or on cross-examination of the complaining witness or other
322 witnesses, except as provided in this Code section. For the purposes of this Code section,
323 evidence of past sexual behavior includes, but is not limited to, evidence of the
324 complaining witness's marital history, mode of dress, general reputation for promiscuity,
325 nonchastity, or sexual mores contrary to the community standards.

326 (b) In any prosecution for rape in violation of Code Section 16-6-1; aggravated assault
327 with the intent to rape in violation of Code Section 16-5-21; aggravated sodomy or sodomy
328 in violation of Code Section 16-6-2; statutory rape in violation of Code Section 16-6-3;
329 aggravated child molestation or child molestation in violation of Code Section 16-6-4;
330 incest in violation of Code Section 16-6-22; sexual battery in violation of Code Section
331 16-6-22.1; or aggravated sexual battery in violation of Code Section 16-6-22.2, evidence
332 relating to the past sexual behavior of the complaining witness may be introduced if the
333 court, following the procedure described in subsection (c) of this Code section, finds that
334 the past sexual behavior directly involved the participation of the accused and finds that the
335 evidence expected to be introduced supports an inference that the accused could have
336 reasonably believed that the complaining witness consented to the conduct complained of
337 in the prosecution.

338 (c) The procedure for introducing evidence as described in subsection (b) of this Code
339 section shall be as follows:

340 (1) At the time the defense seeks to introduce evidence which would be covered by
341 subsection (b) of this Code section, the defense shall notify the court of such intent,
342 whereupon the court shall conduct an in camera hearing to examine the accused's offer
343 of proof;

344 (2) At the conclusion of the hearing, if the court finds that any of the evidence introduced
345 at the hearing is admissible under subsection (b) of this Code section or is so highly
346 material that it will substantially support a conclusion that the accused reasonably
347 believed that the complaining witness consented to the conduct complained of and that
348 justice mandates the admission of such evidence, the court shall by order state what

349 evidence may be introduced by the defense at the trial of the case and in what manner the
350 evidence may be introduced; and
351 (3) The defense may then introduce evidence pursuant to the order of the court.

352 24-4-413.

353 (a) In a criminal proceeding in which the accused is accused of an offense of sexual
354 assault, evidence of the accused's commission of another offense of sexual assault shall be
355 admissible and may be considered for its bearing on any matter to which it is relevant.

356 (b) In a proceeding in which the prosecution intends to offer evidence under this Code
357 section, the prosecutor shall disclose such evidence to the accused, including statements
358 of witnesses or a summary of the substance of any testimony that is expected to be offered,
359 at least ten days in advance of trial, unless the time is shortened or lengthened or pretrial
360 notice is excused by the judge upon good cause shown.

361 (c) This Code section shall not be the exclusive means to admit or consider evidence
362 described in this Code section.

363 (d) As used in this Code section, the term 'offense of sexual assault' means any conduct
364 or attempt or conspiracy to engage in:

365 (1) Conduct that would be a violation of Code Section 16-6-1, 16-6-2, 16-6-3, 16-6-5.1,
366 16-6-22, 16-6-22.1, or 16-6-22.2;

367 (2) Any crime that involves contact, without consent, between any part of the accused's
368 body or an object and the genitals or anus of another person;

369 (3) Any crime that involves contact, without consent, between the genitals or anus of the
370 accused and any part of another person's body; or

371 (4) Any crime that involves deriving sexual pleasure or gratification from the infliction
372 of death, bodily injury, or physical pain on another person.

373 24-4-414.

374 (a) In a criminal proceeding in which the accused is accused of an offense of child
375 molestation, evidence of the accused's commission of another offense of child molestation
376 shall be admissible and may be considered for its bearing on any matter to which it is
377 relevant.

378 (b) In a proceeding in which the state intends to offer evidence under this Code section,
379 the prosecuting attorney shall disclose the evidence to the accused, including statements
380 of witnesses or a summary of the substance of any testimony that the prosecuting attorney
381 expects to offer, at least ten days in advance of trial, unless the time is shortened or
382 lengthened or pretrial notice is excused by the judge upon good cause shown.

383 (c) This Code section shall not be the exclusive means to admit or consider evidence
 384 described under this Code section.

385 (d) As used in this Code section, the term 'offense of child molestation' means any conduct
 386 or attempt or conspiracy to engage in:

387 (1) Conduct that would be a violation of Code Section 16-6-4, 16-6-5, 16-12-100,
 388 16-12-100.2, or 16-12-100.3;

389 (2) Any crime that involves contact between any part of the accused's body or an object
 390 and the genitals or anus of a child;

391 (3) Any crime that involves contact between the genitals or anus of the accused and any
 392 part of the body of a child; or

393 (4) Any crime that involves deriving sexual pleasure or gratification from the infliction
 394 of death, bodily injury, or physical pain on a child.

395 24-4-415.

396 (a) In a civil or administrative proceeding in which a claim for damages or other relief is
 397 predicated on a party's alleged commission of conduct constituting an offense of sexual
 398 assault or an offense of child molestation, evidence of that party's commission of another
 399 offense of sexual assault or another offense of child molestation shall be admissible and
 400 may be considered as provided in Code Sections 24-4-413 and 24-4-414.

401 (b) A party who intends to offer evidence under this Code section shall disclose the
 402 evidence to the party against whom it will be offered, including statements of witnesses or
 403 a summary of the substance of any testimony that is expected to be offered, at least ten
 404 days in advance of trial, unless the time is shortened or lengthened or pretrial notice is
 405 excused by the judge upon good cause shown.

406 (c) This Code section shall not be the exclusive means to admit or consider evidence
 407 described in this Code section.

408 (d) As used in this Code section, the term:

409 (1) 'Offense of child molestation' means any conduct or attempt or conspiracy to engage
 410 in:

411 (A) Conduct that would be a violation of Code Section 16-6-4, 16-6-5, 16-12-100,
 412 16-12-100.2, or 16-12-100.3;

413 (B) Any crime that involves contact between any part of the accused's body or an
 414 object and the genitals or anus of a child;

415 (C) Any crime that involves contact between the genitals or anus of the accused and
 416 any part of the body of a child; or

417 (D) Any crime that involves deriving sexual pleasure or gratification from the infliction
 418 of death, bodily injury, or physical pain on a child.

419 (2) 'Offense of sexual assault' means any conduct or attempt or conspiracy to engage in:
 420 (A) Conduct that would be a violation of Code Section 16-6-1, 16-6-2, 16-6-3,
 421 16-6-5.1, 16-6-22, 16-6-22.1, or 16-6-22.2;
 422 (B) Any crime that involves contact, without consent, between any part of the
 423 accused's body or an object and the genitals or anus of another person;
 424 (C) Any crime that involves contact, without consent, between the genitals or anus of
 425 the accused and any part of another person's body; or
 426 (D) Any crime that involves deriving sexual pleasure or gratification from the infliction
 427 of death, bodily injury, or physical pain on another person.

428 24-4-416.

429 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'health care provider' means any person licensed
 430 under Chapter 9, 10A, 11, 11A, 26, 28, 30, 33, 34, 35, 39, or 44 of Title 43 or any hospital,
 431 nursing home, home health agency, institution, or medical facility licensed or defined under
 432 Chapter 7 of Title 31. The term shall also include any corporation, professional
 433 corporation, partnership, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, authority,
 434 or other entity comprised of such health care providers.

435 (b) In any claim or civil proceeding brought by or on behalf of a patient allegedly
 436 experiencing an unanticipated outcome of medical care, any and all statements,
 437 affirmations, gestures, activities, or conduct expressing regret, apology, sympathy,
 438 commiseration, condolence, compassion, mistake, error, or a general sense of benevolence
 439 which is made by a health care provider or an employee or agent of a health care provider
 440 to the patient, a relative of the patient, or a representative of the patient and which relates
 441 to the unanticipated outcome shall be inadmissible as evidence and shall not constitute an
 442 admission of liability or an admission against interest.

443 24-4-417.

444 (a) In a criminal proceeding involving a prosecution for a violation of Code Section
 445 40-6-391, evidence of the commission of another violation of Code Section 40-6-391 on
 446 a different occasion by the same accused shall be admissible when:

447 (1) The accused refused in the current case to take the state administered test required
 448 by Code Section 40-5-55 and such evidence is relevant to prove knowledge, plan, or
 449 absence of mistake or accident;

450 (2) The accused refused in the current case to provide an adequate breath sample for the
 451 state administered test required by Code Section 40-5-55 and such evidence is relevant
 452 to prove knowledge, plan, or absence of mistake or accident; or

453 (3) The identity of the driver is in dispute in the current case and such evidence is
 454 relevant to prove identity.

455 (b) In a criminal proceeding in which the state intends to offer evidence under this Code
 456 section, the prosecuting attorney shall disclose such evidence to the accused, including
 457 statements of witnesses or a summary of the substance of any testimony that the
 458 prosecuting attorney expects to offer, at least ten days in advance of trial, unless the time
 459 is shortened or pretrial notice is excused by the judge upon good cause shown.

460 (c) This Code section shall not be the exclusive means to admit or consider evidence
 461 described in this Code section.

462 CHAPTER 5

463 24-5-501.

464 (a) There are certain admissions and communications excluded from evidence on grounds
 465 of public policy, including, but not limited to, the following:

466 (1) Communications between husband and wife;

467 (2) Communications between attorney and client;

468 (3) Communications among grand jurors;

469 (4) Secrets of state;

470 (5) Communications between psychiatrist and patient;

471 (6) Communications between licensed psychologist and patient as provided in Code
 472 Section 43-39-16;

473 (7) Communications between a licensed clinical social worker, clinical nurse specialist
 474 in psychiatric/mental health, licensed marriage and family therapist, or licensed
 475 professional counselor and patient;

476 (8) Communications between or among any psychiatrist, psychologist, licensed clinical
 477 social worker, clinical nurse specialist in psychiatric/mental health, licensed marriage and
 478 family therapist, and licensed professional counselor who are rendering psychotherapy
 479 or have rendered psychotherapy to a patient, regarding that patient's communications
 480 which are otherwise privileged by paragraph (5), (6), or (7) of this subsection; and

481 (9) Communications between accountant and client as provided by Code Section
 482 43-3-32.

483 (b) As used in this Code section, the term:

484 (1) 'Psychotherapy' means the employment of psychotherapeutic techniques.

485 (2) 'Psychotherapeutic techniques' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code
 486 Section 43-10A-3.

487 24-5-502.

488 Every communication made by any person professing religious faith, seeking spiritual
489 comfort, or seeking counseling to any Protestant minister of the Gospel, any priest of the
490 Roman Catholic faith, any priest of the Greek Orthodox Catholic faith, any Jewish rabbi,
491 or any Christian or Jewish minister or similar functionary, by whatever name called, shall
492 be deemed privileged. No such minister, priest, rabbi, or similar functionary shall disclose
493 any communications made to him or her by any such person professing religious faith,
494 seeking spiritual guidance, or seeking counseling, nor shall such minister, priest, rabbi, or
495 similar functionary be competent or compellable to testify with reference to any such
496 communication in any court.

497 24-5-503.

498 (a) A husband and wife shall be competent but shall not be compellable to give evidence
499 in any criminal proceeding for or against each other.

500 (b) The privilege created by subsection (a) of this Code section or by corresponding
501 privileges in paragraph (1) of Code Section 24-5-501 or subsection (a) of Code Section
502 24-5-505 shall not apply in proceedings in which the husband or wife is charged with a
503 crime against the person of a child under the age of 18, but such husband or wife shall be
504 compellable to give evidence only on the specific act for which the accused is charged.

505 24-5-504.

506 Any law enforcement officer testifying in his or her official capacity in any criminal
507 proceeding shall not be compelled to reveal his or her home address. Such officer may be
508 required to divulge the business address of his or her employer, and the court may require
509 any law enforcement officer to answer questions as to his or her home address whenever
510 such fact may be material to any issue in the proceeding.

511 24-5-505.

512 (a) No party or witness shall be required to testify as to any matter which may incriminate
513 or tend to incriminate such party or witness or which shall tend to bring infamy, disgrace,
514 or public contempt upon such party or witness or any member of such party or witness's
515 family.

516 (b) Except in proceedings in which a judgment creditor or judgment creditor's successor
517 in interest seeks postjudgment discovery involving a judgment debtor pursuant to Code
518 Section 9-11-69, no party or witness shall be required to testify as to any matter which shall
519 tend to work a forfeiture of his or her estate.

520 (c) No official persons shall be called on to disclose any state matters of which the policy
521 of the state and the interest of the community require concealment.

522 24-5-506.

523 (a) No person who is charged in any criminal proceeding with the commission of any
524 criminal offense shall be compellable to give evidence for or against himself or herself.

525 (b) If an accused in a criminal proceeding wishes to testify and announces in open court
526 his or her intention to do so, the accused may so testify. If an accused testifies, he or she
527 shall be sworn as any other witness and, except as provided in Code Sections 24-6-608 and
528 24-6-609, may be examined and cross-examined as any other witness. The failure of an
529 accused to testify shall create no presumption against the accused, and no comment shall
530 be made because of such failure.

531 24-5-507.

532 (a) Whenever in the judgment of the Attorney General or any district attorney the
533 testimony of any person or the production of evidence of any kind by any person in any
534 criminal proceeding before a court or grand jury is necessary to the public interest, the
535 Attorney General or the district attorney may request in writing the superior court to order
536 such person to testify or produce the evidence. Upon order of the court, such person shall
537 not be excused on the basis of the privilege against self-incrimination from testifying or
538 producing any evidence required, but no testimony or other evidence required under the
539 order or any information directly or indirectly derived from such testimony or evidence
540 shall be used against the person in any proceeding or prosecution for a crime or offense
541 concerning which he or she testified or produced evidence under court order. However,
542 such person may nevertheless be prosecuted or subjected to penalty or forfeiture for any
543 perjury, false swearing, or contempt committed in testifying or failing to testify or in
544 producing or failing to produce evidence in accordance with the order but shall not be
545 required to produce evidence that can be used in any other court of this state, the United
546 States, or any other state. Any order entered under this Code section shall be entered of
547 record in the minutes of the court so as to afford a permanent record thereof, and any
548 testimony given by a person pursuant to such order shall be transcribed and filed for
549 permanent record in the office of the clerk of the court.

550 (b) If a person refuses to testify after being granted immunity from prosecution and after
551 being ordered to testify as set forth in this Code section, such person may be adjudged in
552 contempt and committed to the county jail until such time as such person purges himself
553 or herself of contempt by testifying as ordered without regard to the expiration of the grand

554 jury. If the grand jury before which such person was ordered to testify has been dissolved,
 555 such person may purge himself or herself by testifying before the court.

556 24-5-508.

557 Any person, company, or other entity engaged in the gathering and dissemination of news
 558 for the public through any newspaper, book, magazine, radio or television broadcast, or
 559 electronic means shall have a qualified privilege against disclosure of any information,
 560 document, or item obtained or prepared in the gathering or dissemination of news in any
 561 proceeding where the one asserting the privilege is not a party, unless it is shown that this
 562 privilege has been waived or that what is sought:

563 (1) Is material and relevant;

564 (2) Cannot be reasonably obtained by alternative means; and

565 (3) Is necessary to the proper preparation or presentation of the case of a party seeking
 566 the information, document, or item.

567 CHAPTER 6

568 ARTICLE 1

569 24-6-601.

570 Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, every person is competent to be a witness.

571 24-6-602.

572 A witness may not testify to a matter unless evidence is introduced sufficient to support a
 573 finding that the witness has personal knowledge of such matter. Evidence to prove
 574 personal knowledge may, but need not, consist of the witness's own testimony. The
 575 provisions of this Code section are subject to Code Section 24-7-703 and shall not apply
 576 to party admissions.

577 24-6-603.

578 (a) Before testifying, every witness shall be required to declare that he or she will testify
 579 truthfully by oath or affirmation administered in a form calculated to awaken the witness's
 580 conscience and impress the witness's mind with the duty to do so.

581 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this Code section, in all
 582 proceedings involving deprivation as defined by Code Section 15-11-2 and in all criminal
 583 proceedings in which a child was a victim of or witness to any crime, the child shall be
 584 competent to testify, and the child's credibility shall be determined as provided in this
 585 chapter.

586 24-6-604.

587 Except as provided in Code Sections 24-6-656 and 24-6-657 or by the rules promulgated
588 by the Supreme Court of Georgia pursuant to Code Section 15-1-14, an interpreter shall be
589 subject to the provisions of Code Section 24-7-702. Interpreters shall be required to take
590 an oath or affirmation to make a true translation.

591 24-6-605.

592 The judge presiding at the trial shall not testify in that trial as a witness. No objection need
593 be made in order to preserve this issue.

594 24-6-606.

595 (a) A member of the jury shall not testify as a witness before that jury in the trial of the
596 case in which the juror is sitting. If a juror is called to testify, the opposing party shall be
597 afforded an opportunity to object out of the presence of the jury.

598 (b) Upon an inquiry into the validity of a verdict or indictment, a juror shall not testify by
599 affidavit or otherwise nor shall a juror's statements be received in evidence as to any matter
600 or statement occurring during the course of the jury's deliberations or to the effect of
601 anything upon the jury deliberations or any other juror's mind or emotions as influencing
602 the juror to assent to or dissent from the verdict or indictment or concerning the juror's
603 mental processes in connection therewith; provided, however, that a juror may testify on
604 the question of whether extraneous prejudicial information was improperly brought to the
605 juror's attention, whether any outside influence was improperly brought to bear upon any
606 juror, or whether there was a mistake in entering the verdict onto the verdict form.

607 24-6-607.

608 The credibility of a witness may be attacked by any party, including the party calling the
609 witness.

610 24-6-608.

611 (a) The credibility of a witness may be attacked or supported by evidence in the form of
612 opinion or reputation, subject to the following limitations:

613 (1) The evidence may refer only to character for truthfulness or untruthfulness; and

614 (2) Evidence of truthful character shall be admissible only after the character of the
615 witness for truthfulness has been attacked by opinion or reputation evidence or otherwise.

616 (b) Specific instances of the conduct of a witness, for the purpose of attacking or
617 supporting the witness's character for truthfulness, other than a conviction of a crime as
618 provided in Code Section 24-6-609, or conduct indicative of the witness's bias toward a

619 party may not be proved by extrinsic evidence. Such instances may however, in the
 620 discretion of the court, if probative of truthfulness or untruthfulness, be inquired into on
 621 cross-examination of the witness:

622 (1) Concerning the witness's character for truthfulness or untruthfulness; or

623 (2) Concerning the character for truthfulness or untruthfulness of another witness as to
 624 which character the witness being cross-examined has testified.

625 (c) The giving of testimony, whether by an accused or by any other witness, shall not
 626 operate as a waiver of the accused's or the witness's privilege against self-incrimination
 627 when examined with respect to matters which relate only to character for truthfulness.

628 24-6-609.

629 (a) *General rule.* For the purpose of attacking the character for truthfulness of a witness:

630 (1) Evidence that a witness other than an accused has been convicted of a crime shall be
 631 admitted subject to the provisions of Code Section 24-4-403 if the crime was punishable
 632 by death or imprisonment in excess of one year under the law under which the witness
 633 was convicted and evidence that an accused has been convicted of such a crime shall be
 634 admitted if the court determines that the probative value of admitting the evidence
 635 outweighs its prejudicial effect to the accused; or

636 (2) Evidence that any witness has been convicted of a crime shall be admitted regardless
 637 of the punishment, if it readily can be determined that establishing the elements of such
 638 crime required proof or admission of an act of dishonesty or making a false statement.

639 (b) *Time limit.* Evidence of a conviction under this Code section shall not be admissible
 640 if a period of more than ten years has elapsed since the date of the conviction or of the
 641 release of the witness from the confinement imposed for such conviction, whichever is the
 642 later date, unless the court determines, in the interests of justice, that the probative value
 643 of the conviction supported by specific facts and circumstances substantially outweighs its
 644 prejudicial effect. However, evidence of a conviction more than ten years old, as
 645 calculated in this subsection, shall not be admissible unless the proponent gives to the
 646 adverse party sufficient advance written notice of intent to use such evidence to provide the
 647 adverse party with a fair opportunity to contest the use of such evidence.

648 (c) *Effect of pardon, annulment, certificate of rehabilitation, or discharge from a first*
 649 *offender program.* Evidence of a final adjudication of guilt and subsequent discharge
 650 under any first offender statute shall not be used to impeach any witness and evidence of
 651 a conviction shall not be admissible under this Code section if:

652 (1) The conviction has been the subject of a pardon, annulment, certificate of
 653 rehabilitation, or other equivalent procedure based on a finding of the rehabilitation of the

654 person convicted, and that person has not been convicted of a subsequent crime which
655 was punishable by death or imprisonment in excess of one year; or

656 (2) The conviction has been the subject of a pardon, annulment, or other equivalent
657 procedure based on a finding of innocence.

658 (d) *Nolo contendere* pleas and juvenile adjudications. A conviction based on a plea of
659 nolo contendere shall not be admissible to impeach any witness under this Code section.
660 Evidence of juvenile adjudications shall not generally be admissible under this Code
661 section. The court may, however, in a criminal proceeding allow evidence of a juvenile
662 adjudication of a witness other than the accused if conviction of the offense would be
663 admissible to attack the credibility of an adult and the court is satisfied that admission in
664 evidence is necessary for a fair determination of the issue of guilt or innocence of the
665 accused.

666 (e) *Pendency of appeal*. The pendency of an appeal shall not render evidence of a
667 conviction inadmissible. Evidence of the pendency of an appeal shall be admissible.

668 24-6-610.

669 Evidence of the beliefs or opinions of a witness on matters of religion shall not be
670 admissible for the purpose of proving that by reason of the nature of the beliefs or opinions
671 the witness's credibility is impaired or enhanced.

672 24-6-611.

673 (a) The court shall exercise reasonable control over the mode and order of interrogating
674 witnesses and presenting evidence so as to:

675 (1) Make the interrogation and presentation effective for the ascertainment of the truth;

676 (2) Avoid needless consumption of time; and

677 (3) Protect witnesses from harassment or undue embarrassment.

678 (b) A witness may be cross-examined on any matter relevant to any issue in the
679 proceeding. The right of a thorough and sifting cross-examination shall belong to every
680 party as to the witnesses called against the party. If several parties to the same proceeding
681 have distinct interests, each party may exercise the right to cross-examination.

682 (c) Leading questions shall not be used on the direct examination of a witness except as
683 may be necessary to develop the witness's testimony. Ordinarily leading questions shall
684 be permitted on cross-examination. When a party calls a hostile witness, an adverse party,
685 or a witness identified with an adverse party, interrogation may be by leading questions.

686 24-6-612.

687 (a) If a witness uses a writing to refresh his or her memory while testifying, an adverse
688 party shall be entitled to have the writing produced at the hearing or trial, to inspect it, to
689 cross-examine the witness on such writing, and to introduce in evidence those portions of
690 such writing which relate to the testimony of the witness.

691 (b) If a witness uses a writing to refresh his or her memory before testifying at trial and the
692 court in its discretion determines it is necessary in the interests of justice, an adverse party
693 shall be entitled to have the writing produced at the trial, to inspect it, to cross-examine the
694 witness on such writing, and to introduce in evidence those portions of such writing which
695 relate to the testimony of the witness. If the writing used is protected by the attorney-client
696 privilege or as attorney work product under Code Section 9-11-26, use of the writing to
697 refresh recollection prior to the trial shall not constitute a waiver of that privilege or
698 protection. If it is claimed that the writing contains matters not related to the subject matter
699 of the testimony, the court shall examine the writing in camera, excise any portions of such
700 writing not so related, and order delivery of the remainder of such writing to the party
701 entitled to such writing. Any portion withheld over objections shall be preserved and made
702 available to the appellate court in the event of an appeal. If a writing is not produced or
703 delivered pursuant to an order under this Code section, the court shall make any order
704 justice requires; provided, however, that in criminal proceedings, when the prosecution
705 elects not to comply, the order shall be one striking the testimony or, if the court in its
706 discretion determines that the interests of justice so require, declaring a mistrial.

707 24-6-613.

708 (a) In examining a witness concerning a prior statement made by the witness, whether
709 written or not, the statement need not be shown nor its contents disclosed to the witness at
710 that time; provided, however, upon request the same shall be shown or disclosed to
711 opposing counsel.

712 (b) Except as provided in Code Section 24-8-806, extrinsic evidence of a prior inconsistent
713 statement by a witness shall not be admissible unless the witness is first afforded an
714 opportunity to explain or deny the prior inconsistent statement and the opposite party is
715 afforded an opportunity to interrogate the witness on the prior inconsistent statement or the
716 interests of justice otherwise require. This subsection shall not apply to admissions of a
717 party-opponent as set forth in paragraph (2) of subsection (d) of Code Section 24-8-801.

718 (c) A prior consistent statement shall be admissible to rehabilitate a witness if the prior
719 consistent statement logically rebuts an attack made on the witness's credibility. A general
720 attack on a witness's credibility with evidence offered under Code Section 24-6-608 or
721 24-6-609 shall not permit rehabilitation under this subsection. If a prior consistent

722 statement is offered to rebut an express or implied charge against the witness of recent
 723 fabrication or improper influence or motive, the prior consistent statement shall have been
 724 made before the alleged recent fabrication or improper influence or motive arose.

725 24-6-614.

726 (a) The court may, on its own motion, call a court appointed expert, call a witness
 727 regarding the competency of any party, or call a child witness or, at the suggestion of a
 728 party, call such witnesses, and all parties shall be entitled to cross-examine such witnesses.

729 In all other situations, the court may only call witnesses when there is an agreement of all
 730 of the parties for the court to call such witnesses and all parties shall be entitled to
 731 cross-examine such witnesses.

732 (b) The court may interrogate witnesses whether called by itself pursuant to subsection (a)
 733 of this Code section or by a party.

734 (c) Objections to the calling of witnesses by the court or to interrogation by the court may
 735 be made at the time or at the next available opportunity when the jury is not present.

736 24-6-615.

737 Except as otherwise provided in Code Section 24-6-616, at the request of a party the court
 738 shall order witnesses excluded so that each witness cannot hear the testimony of other
 739 witnesses, and it may make the order on its own motion. This Code section shall not
 740 authorize exclusion of:

741 (1) A party who is a natural person;

742 (2) An officer or employee of a party which is not a natural person designated as its
 743 representative by its attorney; or

744 (3) A person whose presence is shown by a party to be essential to the presentation of
 745 the party's cause.

746 24-6-616.

747 Subject to the provisions of Code Section 17-17-9, the victim of a criminal offense shall
 748 be entitled to be present in any court exercising jurisdiction over such offense.

749 ARTICLE 2

750 24-6-620.

751 The credibility of a witness shall be a matter to be determined by the trier of fact, and if the
 752 case is being heard by a jury, the court shall give the jury proper instructions as to the
 753 credibility of a witness.

754 24-6-621.

755 A witness may be impeached by disproving the facts testified to by the witness.

756 24-6-622.

757 The state of a witness's feelings towards the parties and the witness's relationship to the
758 parties may always be proved for the consideration of the jury.

759 24-6-623.

760 It shall be the right of a witness to be examined only as to relevant matters and to be
761 protected from improper questions and from harsh or insulting demeanor.

762 ARTICLE 3

763 24-6-650.

764 It is the policy of the State of Georgia to secure the rights of hearing impaired persons who,
765 because of impaired hearing, cannot readily understand or communicate in spoken
766 language and who consequently cannot equally participate in or benefit from proceedings,
767 programs, and activities of the courts, legislative bodies, administrative agencies, licensing
768 commissions, departments, and boards of this state and its political subdivisions unless
769 qualified interpreters are available to assist such persons.

770 24-6-651.

771 As used in this article, the term:

772 (1) 'Agency' means any agency, authority, board, bureau, committee, commission, court,
773 department, or jury of the legislative, judicial, or executive branch of government of this
774 state or any political subdivision thereof.

775 (2) 'Court qualified interpreter' means any person licensed as an interpreter for the
776 hearing impaired pursuant to Code Section 15-1-14.

777 (3) 'Hearing impaired person' means any person whose hearing is totally impaired or
778 whose hearing is so seriously impaired as to prohibit the person from understanding oral
779 communications when spoken in a normal conversational tone.

780 (4) 'Intermediary interpreter' means any person, including any hearing impaired person,
781 who is able to assist in providing an accurate interpretation between spoken English and
782 sign language or between the variance of sign language by acting as an intermediary
783 between a hearing impaired person and a qualified interpreter.

784 (5) 'Proceeding' means any meeting, hearing, trial, investigation, or other proceeding of
785 any nature conducted by an agency.

786 (6) 'Qualified interpreter' means any person certified as an interpreter for hearing
787 impaired persons by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf or a court qualified
788 interpreter.

789 24-6-652.

790 (a) The agency conducting any proceeding shall provide a qualified interpreter to the
791 hearing impaired person:

792 (1) Whenever the hearing impaired person is a party to the proceeding or a witness
793 before the proceeding; or

794 (2) Whenever a person who is below the age of 18 years is a party to the proceeding or
795 a witness before the proceeding conducted by an agency whose parents are hearing
796 impaired persons or whose guardian is a hearing impaired person.

797 (b) A hearing impaired person shall notify the agency not less than ten days, excluding
798 weekends and holidays, prior to the date of the proceeding of the need for a qualified
799 interpreter. If the hearing impaired person received notice of the proceeding less than ten
800 days, excluding weekends and holidays, prior to the proceeding, such person shall notify
801 the agency as soon as practicable after receiving such notice.

802 24-6-653.

803 (a) An arresting law enforcement agency shall provide a qualified interpreter to any
804 hearing impaired person whenever a hearing impaired person is arrested for allegedly
805 violating any criminal law or ordinance of this state or any political subdivision thereof.

806 (b)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, no interrogation, warning,
807 informing of rights, taking of statements, or other investigatory procedures shall be
808 undertaken upon a hearing impaired person unless a qualified interpreter has been
809 provided or the law enforcement agency has taken such other steps as may be reasonable
810 to accommodate such person's disability. No answer, statement, admission, or other
811 evidence acquired through the interrogation of a hearing impaired person shall be
812 admissible in any criminal or quasi-criminal proceedings unless such was knowingly and
813 voluntarily given. No hearing impaired person who has been taken into custody and who
814 is otherwise eligible for release shall be detained because of the unavailability of a
815 qualified interpreter.

816 (2) If a qualified interpreter is not available, an arresting officer may interrogate or take
817 a statement from such person, provided that if the hearing impaired person cannot hear
818 spoken words with a hearing aid or other sound amplification device, such interrogation
819 and answers thereto shall be in writing and shall be preserved and turned over to the court
820 in the event such person is tried for the alleged offense.

821 24-6-654.

822 (a) A court shall provide a court qualified interpreter to any hearing impaired person
823 whenever the hearing impaired person has been provided with a public defender or court
824 appointed legal counsel.

825 (b) The court qualified interpreter authorized by this Code section shall be present at all
826 times when the hearing impaired person is consulting with legal counsel.

827 24-6-655.

828 Whenever a hearing impaired person shall be authorized to be provided a qualified
829 interpreter, such person may waive the right to the use of such interpreter. Any such
830 waiver shall be in writing and shall be approved by the agency or law enforcement agency
831 before which the hearing impaired person is to appear. In no event shall the failure of a
832 hearing impaired person to request an interpreter be deemed to be a waiver of the hearing
833 impaired person's right to a qualified interpreter.

834 24-6-656.

835 Whenever a hearing impaired person shall be authorized to be provided a qualified
836 interpreter, the agency or law enforcement agency shall determine whether the qualified
837 interpreter so provided is able to communicate accurately with and translate information
838 to and from the hearing impaired person. If it is determined that the qualified interpreter
839 cannot perform these functions, the agency or law enforcement agency shall obtain the
840 services of another qualified interpreter or shall appoint an intermediary interpreter to assist
841 the qualified interpreter in communicating with the hearing impaired person.

842 24-6-657.

843 (a) Prior to providing any service to a hearing impaired person, any qualified interpreter
844 or intermediary interpreter shall subscribe to an oath that he or she will interpret all
845 communications in an accurate manner to the best of his or her skill and knowledge. The
846 Supreme Court of Georgia may by rule of court prescribe the form of the oath for
847 interpreters and intermediary interpreters for use in court and other judicial proceedings.

848 (b) Whenever a hearing impaired person communicates with any other person through the
849 use of an interpreter and under circumstances which make such communications privileged
850 or otherwise confidential, the presence of the interpreter shall not vitiate such privilege and
851 the interpreter shall not be required to disclose the contents of such communication.

852 (c) Whenever a qualified interpreter is required by this article, the agency or law
853 enforcement agency shall not begin the proceeding or take any action until such interpreter

854 is in full view of and spatially situated so as to assure effective communication with the
 855 hearing impaired person.

856 (d) The agency or law enforcement agency may, upon its own motion or upon motion of
 857 any party, witness, or participant, order that the testimony of the hearing impaired person
 858 be electronically and visually recorded. Any such recording may be used to verify the
 859 testimony given by the hearing impaired person.

860 24-6-658.

861 Any qualified interpreter or intermediary interpreter providing service under this article
 862 shall be compensated by the agency or law enforcement agency requesting such service.

863 CHAPTER 7

864 24-7-701.

865 (a) If the witness is not testifying as an expert, the witness's testimony in the form of
 866 opinions or inferences shall be limited to those opinions or inferences which are:

867 (1) Rationally based on the perception of the witness;

868 (2) Helpful to a clear understanding of the witness's testimony or the determination of
 869 a fact in issue; and

870 (3) Not based on scientific, technical, or other specialized knowledge within the scope
 871 of Code Section 24-7-702.

872 (b) Direct testimony as to market value is in the nature of opinion evidence. A witness
 873 need not be an expert or dealer in an article or property to testify as to its value if he or she
 874 has had an opportunity to form a reasoned opinion.

875 24-7-702.

876 (a) Except as provided in Code Section 22-1-14 and in subsection (g) of this Code section,
 877 the provisions of this Code section shall apply in all civil proceedings. The opinion of a
 878 witness qualified as an expert under this Code section may be given on the facts as proved
 879 by other witnesses.

880 (b) If scientific, technical, or other specialized knowledge will assist the trier of fact to
 881 understand the evidence or to determine a fact in issue, a witness qualified as an expert by
 882 knowledge, skill, experience, training, or education may testify thereto in the form of an
 883 opinion or otherwise, if:

884 (1) The testimony is based upon sufficient facts or data;

885 (2) The testimony is the product of reliable principles and methods; and

886 (3) The witness has applied the principles and methods reliably to the facts of the case
 887 which have been or will be admitted into evidence before the trier of fact.

888 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this Code section and any other
 889 provision of law which might be construed to the contrary, in professional malpractice
 890 actions, the opinions of an expert, who is otherwise qualified as to the acceptable standard
 891 of conduct of the professional whose conduct is at issue, shall be admissible only if, at the
 892 time the act or omission is alleged to have occurred, such expert:

893 (1) Was licensed by an appropriate regulatory agency to practice his or her profession
 894 in the state in which such expert was practicing or teaching in the profession at such time;
 895 and

896 (2) In the case of a medical malpractice action, had actual professional knowledge and
 897 experience in the area of practice or specialty in which the opinion is to be given as the
 898 result of having been regularly engaged in:

899 (A) The active practice of such area of specialty of his or her profession for at least
 900 three of the last five years, with sufficient frequency to establish an appropriate level
 901 of knowledge, as determined by the judge, in performing the procedure, diagnosing the
 902 condition, or rendering the treatment which is alleged to have been performed or
 903 rendered negligently by the defendant whose conduct is at issue; or

904 (B) The teaching of his or her profession for at least three of the last five years as an
 905 employed member of the faculty of an educational institution accredited in the teaching
 906 of such profession, with sufficient frequency to establish an appropriate level of
 907 knowledge, as determined by the judge, in teaching others how to perform the
 908 procedure, diagnose the condition, or render the treatment which is alleged to have been
 909 performed or rendered negligently by the defendant whose conduct is at issue; and

910 (C) Except as provided in subparagraph (D) of this paragraph:

911 (i) Is a member of the same profession;

912 (ii) Is a medical doctor testifying as to the standard of care of a defendant who is a
 913 doctor of osteopathy; or

914 (iii) Is a doctor of osteopathy testifying as to the standard of care of a defendant who
 915 is a medical doctor; and

916 (D) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code section, an expert who is a
 917 physician and, as a result of having, during at least three of the last five years
 918 immediately preceding the time the act or omission is alleged to have occurred,
 919 supervised, taught, or instructed nurses, nurse practitioners, certified registered nurse
 920 anesthetists, nurse midwives, physician assistants, physical therapists, occupational
 921 therapists, or medical support staff, has knowledge of the standard of care of that health
 922 care provider under the circumstances at issue shall be competent to testify as to the

923 standard of that health care provider. However, a nurse, nurse practitioner, certified
 924 registered nurse anesthetist, nurse midwife, physician assistant, physical therapist,
 925 occupational therapist, or medical support staff shall not be competent to testify as to
 926 the standard of care of a physician.

927 (d) Upon motion of a party, the court may hold a pretrial hearing to determine whether the
 928 witness qualifies as an expert and whether the expert's testimony satisfies the requirements
 929 of subsections (a) and (b) of this Code section. Such hearing and ruling shall be completed
 930 no later than the final pretrial conference contemplated under Code Section 9-11-16.

931 (e) An affiant shall meet the requirements of this Code section in order to be deemed
 932 qualified to testify as an expert by means of the affidavit required under Code Section
 933 9-11-9.1.

934 (f) It is the intent of the legislature that, in all civil proceedings, the courts of the State of
 935 Georgia not be viewed as open to expert evidence that would not be admissible in other
 936 states. Therefore, in interpreting and applying this Code section, the courts of this state
 937 may draw from the opinions of the United States Supreme Court in Daubert v. Merrell
 938 Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 509 U.S. 579 (1993); General Electric Co. v. Joiner, 522 U.S.
 939 136 (1997); Kumho Tire Co. Ltd. v. Carmichael, 526 U.S. 137 (1999); and other cases in
 940 federal courts applying the standards announced by the United States Supreme Court in
 941 these cases.

942 (g) This Code section shall not be strictly applied in proceedings conducted pursuant to
 943 Chapter 9 of Title 34 or in administrative proceedings conducted pursuant to Chapter 13
 944 of Title 50.

945 24-7-703.

946 The facts or data in the particular proceeding upon which an expert bases an opinion or
 947 inference may be those perceived by or made known to the expert at or before the hearing.
 948 If of a type reasonably relied upon by experts in the particular field in forming opinions or
 949 inferences upon the subject, such facts or data need not be admissible in evidence in order
 950 for the opinion or inference to be admitted. Such facts or data that are otherwise
 951 inadmissible shall not be disclosed to the jury by the proponent of the opinion or inference
 952 unless the court determines that their probative value in assisting the jury to evaluate the
 953 expert's opinion substantially outweighs their prejudicial effect.

954 24-7-704.

955 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this Code section, testimony in the form of an
 956 opinion or inference otherwise admissible shall not be objectionable because it embraces
 957 an ultimate issue to be decided by the trier of fact.

958 (b) No expert witness testifying with respect to the mental state or condition of an accused
 959 in a criminal proceeding shall state an opinion or inference as to whether the accused did
 960 or did not have the mental state or condition constituting an element of the crime charged
 961 or of a defense thereto. Such ultimate issues are matters for the trier of fact alone.

962 24-7-705.

963 An expert may testify in terms of opinion or inference and give reasons therefor without
 964 first testifying to the underlying facts or data, unless the court requires otherwise. An
 965 expert may in any event be required to disclose the underlying facts or data on
 966 cross-examination.

967 24-7-706.

968 Except as provided in Chapter 7 of Title 9 or Code Section 17-7-130.1, 17-10-66, 29-4-11,
 969 29-5-11, 31-14-3, 31-20-3, or 44-6-166.1, the following procedures shall govern the
 970 appointment, compensation, and presentation of testimony of court appointed experts:

971 (1) The court on its own motion or on the motion of any party may enter an order to
 972 show cause why any expert witness should not be appointed and may request the parties
 973 to submit nominations. The court may appoint any expert witnesses agreed upon by the
 974 parties and may appoint expert witnesses of its own selection. An expert witness shall
 975 not be appointed by the court unless the witness consents to act. Each appointed expert
 976 witness shall be informed of his or her duties by the court in writing, a copy of which
 977 shall be filed with the clerk, or at a conference in which the parties shall have opportunity
 978 to participate. Each appointed expert witness shall advise the parties of his or her
 979 findings, if any. Except as provided in Article 3 of Chapter 12 or Article 6 of Chapter 13
 980 of this title, such witness's deposition may be taken by any party. Such witness may be
 981 called to testify by the court or any party. Each expert witness shall be subject to
 982 cross-examination by each party, including a party calling the witness;

983 (2) Appointed expert witnesses shall be entitled to reasonable compensation in whatever
 984 sum the court allows. The compensation fixed shall be payable from funds which may
 985 be provided by law in criminal proceedings and civil proceedings and proceedings
 986 involving just compensation for the taking of property. In other civil proceedings, the
 987 compensation shall be paid by the parties in such proportion and at such time as the court
 988 directs and thereafter charged in like manner as other costs;

989 (3) In the exercise of its discretion, the court may authorize disclosure to the jury of the
 990 fact that the court appointed the expert witness; and

991 (4) Nothing in this Code section shall limit a party in calling expert witnesses of the
 992 party's own selection.

993 24-7-707.

994 In criminal proceedings, the opinions of experts on any question of science, skill, trade, or
 995 like questions shall always be admissible; and such opinions may be given on the facts as
 996 proved by other witnesses.

997 CHAPTER 8

998 ARTICLE 1

999 24-8-801.

1000 As used in this chapter, the term:

1001 (a) 'Statement' means:

1002 (1) An oral or written assertion; or

1003 (2) Nonverbal conduct of a person, if it is intended by the person as an assertion.

1004 (b) 'Declarant' means a person who makes a statement.

1005 (c) 'Hearsay' means a statement, other than one made by the declarant while testifying at
 1006 the trial or hearing, offered in evidence to prove the truth of the matter asserted.

1007 (d) 'Hearsay' shall be subject to the following exclusions and conditions:

1008 (1) *Prior statement by witness.*

1009 (A) An out-of-court statement shall not be hearsay if the declarant testifies at the trial
 1010 or hearing, is subject to cross-examination concerning the statement, and the statement
 1011 is admissible as a prior inconsistent statement or a prior consistent statement under
 1012 Code Section 24-6-613 or is otherwise admissible under this chapter.

1013 (B) If a hearsay statement is admitted and the declarant does not testify at the trial or
 1014 hearing, other out-of-court statements of the declarant shall be admissible for the
 1015 limited use of impeaching or rehabilitating the credibility of the declarant, and not as
 1016 substantive evidence, if the other statements qualify as prior inconsistent statements or
 1017 prior consistent statements under Code Section 24-6-613.

1018 (C) A statement shall not be hearsay if the declarant testifies at the trial or hearing and
 1019 is subject to cross-examination concerning the statement, and the statement is one of
 1020 identification of a person made after perceiving the person; and

1021 (2) *Admissions by party-opponent.*

1022 Admissions shall not be excluded by the hearsay rule. An admission is a statement
 1023 offered against a party which is:

1024 (A) The party's own statement, in either an individual or representative capacity;

1025 (B) A statement of which the party has manifested an adoption or belief in its truth;

1026 (C) A statement by a person authorized by the party to make a statement concerning
 1027 the subject;

1028 (D) A statement by the party's agent or employee, but not including any agent of the
 1029 state in a criminal proceeding, concerning a matter within the scope of the agency or
 1030 employment, made during the existence of the relationship; or

1031 (E) A statement by a coconspirator of a party during the course and in furtherance of
 1032 the conspiracy, including a statement made during the concealment phase of a
 1033 conspiracy. A conspiracy need not be charged in order to make a statement admissible
 1034 under this subparagraph.

1035 The contents of the statement shall be considered but shall not alone be sufficient to
 1036 establish the declarant's authority under subparagraph (C) of this paragraph, the agency
 1037 or employment relationship and scope thereof under subparagraph (D) of this paragraph,
 1038 or the existence of the conspiracy and the participation therein of the declarant and the
 1039 party against whom the statement is offered under subparagraph (E) of this paragraph.

1040 (e) 'Public office' means:

1041 (1) Every state department, agency, board, bureau, commission, division, public
 1042 corporation, and authority;

1043 (2) Every county, municipal corporation, school district, or other political subdivision
 1044 of this state;

1045 (3) Every department, agency, board, bureau, commission, authority, or similar body of
 1046 each such county, municipal corporation, or other political subdivision of this state; and

1047 (4) Every city, county, regional, or other authority established pursuant to the laws of this
 1048 state.

1049 (f) 'Public official' means an elected or appointed official.

1050 (g) 'Public record' means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is
 1051 stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form and created
 1052 in the course of the operation of a public office.

1053 24-8-802.

1054 Hearsay shall not be admissible except as provided by this article; provided, however, that
 1055 if a party does not properly object to hearsay, the objection shall be deemed waived, and
 1056 the hearsay evidence shall be legal evidence and admissible.

1057 24-8-803.

1058 The following shall not be excluded by the hearsay rule, even though the declarant is
 1059 available as a witness:

1060 (1) Present sense impression. A statement describing or explaining an event or condition
 1061 made while the declarant was perceiving the event or condition or immediately thereafter;

1062 (2) Excited utterance. A statement relating to a startling event or condition made while
1063 the declarant was under the stress of excitement caused by the event or condition;
1064 (3) Then existing mental, emotional, or physical condition. A statement of the
1065 declarant's then existing state of mind, emotion, sensation, or physical condition, such as
1066 intent, plan, motive, design, mental feeling, pain, and bodily health, but not including a
1067 statement of memory or belief to prove the fact remembered or believed unless such
1068 statements relate to the execution, revocation, identification, or terms of the declarant's
1069 will and not including a statement of belief as to the intent of another person;
1070 (4) Statements for purposes of medical diagnosis or treatment. Statements made for
1071 purposes of medical diagnosis or treatment and describing medical history, or past or
1072 present symptoms, pain, or sensations, or the inception or general character of the cause
1073 or external source thereof insofar as reasonably pertinent to diagnosis or treatment;
1074 (5) Recorded recollection. A memorandum or record concerning a matter about which
1075 a witness once had knowledge but now has insufficient recollection to enable the witness
1076 to testify fully and accurately shown to have been made or adopted by the witness when
1077 the matter was fresh in the witness's memory and to reflect that knowledge correctly. If
1078 admitted, the memorandum or record may be read into evidence but shall not itself be
1079 received as an exhibit unless offered by an adverse party;
1080 (6) Records of regularly conducted activity. Unless the source of information or the
1081 method or circumstances of preparation indicate lack of trustworthiness and subject to the
1082 provisions of Chapter 7 of this title, a memorandum, report, record, or data compilation,
1083 in any form, of acts, events, conditions, opinions, or diagnoses, if (A) made at or near the
1084 time of the described acts, events, conditions, opinions, or diagnoses; (B) made by, or
1085 from information transmitted by, a person with personal knowledge and a business duty
1086 to report; (C) kept in the course of a regularly conducted business activity; and (D) it was
1087 the regular practice of that business activity to make the memorandum, report, record, or
1088 data compilation, all as shown by the testimony of the custodian or other qualified
1089 witness or by certification that complies with paragraph (11) or (12) of Code Section
1090 24-9-902 or by any other statute permitting certification. The term 'business' as used in
1091 this paragraph includes any business, institution, association, profession, occupation, and
1092 calling of every kind, whether or not conducted for profit. Public records and reports
1093 shall be admissible under paragraph (8) of this Code section and shall not be admissible
1094 under this paragraph;
1095 (7) Absence of entry in records kept in accordance with paragraph (6) of this Code
1096 section. Evidence that a matter is not included in the memoranda, reports, records, or
1097 data compilations, in any form, kept in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (6)
1098 of this Code section, to prove the nonoccurrence or nonexistence of the matter, if the

1099 matter was of a kind of which a memorandum, report, record, or data compilation was
 1100 regularly made and preserved, unless the sources of information or other circumstances
 1101 indicate lack of trustworthiness;

1102 (8) *Public records and reports.* Except as otherwise provided by law, public records,
 1103 reports, statements, or data compilations, in any form, of public offices, setting forth:

1104 (A) The activities of the public office;

1105 (B) Matters observed pursuant to duty imposed by law as to which matters there was
 1106 a duty to report, excluding, however, against the accused in criminal proceedings,
 1107 matters observed by police officers and other law enforcement personnel in connection
 1108 with an investigation; or

1109 (C) In civil proceedings and against the state in criminal proceedings, factual findings
 1110 resulting from an investigation made pursuant to authority granted by law, unless the
 1111 sources of information or other circumstances indicate lack of trustworthiness;

1112 (9) *Records of vital statistics.* Records or data compilations, in any form, of births, fetal
 1113 deaths, deaths, or marriages, if the report thereof was made to a public office pursuant to
 1114 requirements of law;

1115 (10) *Absence of public record or entry.* To prove the absence of a record, report,
 1116 statement, or data compilation, in any form, or the nonoccurrence or nonexistence of a
 1117 matter of which a record, report, statement, or data compilation, in any form, was
 1118 regularly made and preserved by a public office, evidence in the form of a certification
 1119 in accordance with Code Section 24-9-902, or testimony, that diligent search failed to
 1120 disclose the record, report, statement, or data compilation, or entry;

1121 (11) *Records of religious organizations.* Statements of birth, marriages, divorces, deaths,
 1122 legitimacy, ancestry, relationship by blood or marriage, or other similar facts of personal
 1123 or family history, contained in a regularly kept record of a religious organization;

1124 (12) *Marriage, baptismal, and similar certificates.* Statements of fact contained in a
 1125 certificate that the maker performed a marriage or other ceremony or administered a
 1126 sacrament, made by a clergyman, public official, or other person authorized by the rules
 1127 or practices of a religious organization or by law to perform the act certified and
 1128 purporting to have been issued at the time of the act or within a reasonable time
 1129 thereafter;

1130 (13) *Family records.* Statements of fact concerning personal or family history contained
 1131 in family Bibles, genealogies, charts, engravings on rings, inscriptions on family portraits,
 1132 engravings on urns, crypts, or tombstones, or the like;

1133 (14) *Records of documents affecting an interest in property.* The record of a document
 1134 purporting to establish or affect an interest in property, as proof of the content of the
 1135 original recorded document and its execution and delivery by each person by whom it

1136 purports to have been executed, if the record is a record of a public office and an
1137 applicable law authorizes the recording of documents of that kind in such office;
1138 (15) Statements in documents affecting an interest in property. A statement contained
1139 in a document purporting to establish or affect an interest in property if the matter stated
1140 was relevant to the purpose of the document, unless dealings with the property since the
1141 document was made have been inconsistent with the truth of the statement or the purport
1142 of the document;
1143 (16) Statements in ancient documents. Statements in a document in existence 20 years
1144 or more the authenticity of which is established;
1145 (17) Market reports and commercial publications. Market quotations, tabulations, lists,
1146 directories, or other published compilations generally used and relied upon by the public
1147 or by persons in the witness's particular occupation;
1148 (18) Learned treatises. To the extent called to the attention of an expert witness upon
1149 cross-examination, statements contained in published treatises, periodicals, or pamphlets,
1150 whether published electronically or in print, on a subject of history, medicine, or other
1151 science or art, established as a reliable authority by the testimony or admission of the
1152 witness, by other expert testimony, or by judicial notice. If admitted, the statements may
1153 be used for cross-examination of an expert witness and read into evidence but shall not
1154 be received as exhibits;
1155 (19) Reputation concerning personal or family history. Reputation among members of
1156 a person's family by blood, adoption, or marriage or among a person's associates or in the
1157 community concerning a person's birth, adoption, marriage, divorce, death, legitimacy,
1158 relationship by blood, adoption, or marriage, ancestry, or other similar fact of the person's
1159 personal or family history;
1160 (20) Reputation concerning boundaries or general history. Reputation in a community,
1161 arising before the controversy, as to boundaries of or customs affecting lands in the
1162 community and reputation as to events of general history important to the community or
1163 state or nation in which such lands are located;
1164 (21) Reputation as to character. Reputation of a person's character among associates or
1165 in the community;
1166 (22) Judgment of previous conviction. Evidence of a final judgment, entered after a trial
1167 or upon a plea of guilty but not upon a plea of nolo contendere, adjudging a person guilty
1168 of a crime punishable by death or imprisonment in excess of one year to prove any fact
1169 essential to sustain the judgment, but not including, when offered by the state in a
1170 criminal prosecution for purposes other than impeachment, judgments against persons
1171 other than the accused. The pendency of an appeal may be shown but shall not affect
1172 admissibility; or

1173 (23) Judgment as to personal, family, or general history or boundaries. Judgments as
 1174 proof of matters of personal, family, or general history or boundaries essential to the
 1175 judgment, if the same would be provable by evidence of reputation.

1176 24-8-804.

1177 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'unavailable as a witness' includes situations in
 1178 which the declarant:

1179 (1) Is exempted by ruling of the court on the ground of privilege from testifying
 1180 concerning the subject matter of the declarant's statement;

1181 (2) Persists in refusing to testify concerning the subject matter of the declarant's
 1182 statement despite an order of the court to do so;

1183 (3) Testifies to a lack of memory of the subject matter of the declarant's statement;

1184 (4) Is unable to be present or to testify at the hearing because of death or then existing
 1185 physical or mental illness or infirmity; or

1186 (5) Is absent from the hearing and the proponent of the statement has been unable to
 1187 procure the declarant's attendance or, in the case of exceptions under paragraph (2), (3),
 1188 or (4) of subsection (b) of this Code section, the declarant's attendance or testimony, by
 1189 process or other reasonable means.

1190 A declarant shall not be deemed unavailable as a witness if the declarant's exemption,
 1191 refusal, claim of lack of memory, inability, or absence is due to the procurement or
 1192 wrongdoing of the proponent of a statement for the purpose of preventing the witness from
 1193 attending or testifying.

1194 (b) The following shall not be excluded by the hearsay rule if the declarant is unavailable
 1195 as a witness:

1196 (1) Testimony given as a witness at another hearing of the same or a different
 1197 proceeding, or in a deposition taken in compliance with law in the course of the same or
 1198 another proceeding, if the party against whom the testimony is now offered, or, in a civil
 1199 proceeding, a predecessor in interest, had an opportunity and similar motive to develop
 1200 the testimony by direct, cross, or redirect examination. If deposition testimony is
 1201 admissible under either the rules stated in Code Section 9-11-32 or this Code section, it
 1202 shall be admissible at trial in accordance with the rules under which it was offered;

1203 (2) In a prosecution for homicide or in a civil proceeding, a statement made by a
 1204 declarant while believing that his or her death was imminent, concerning the cause or
 1205 circumstances of what the declarant believed to be impending death;

1206 (3) A statement against interest. A statement against interest is a statement:

1207 (A) Which a reasonable person in the declarant's position would have made only if the
 1208 person believed it to be true because, when made, it was so contrary to the declarant's

1209 proprietary or pecuniary interest or had so great a tendency to invalidate a claim by the
 1210 declarant against another or to expose the declarant to civil or criminal liability; and
 1211 (B) Supported by corroborating circumstances that clearly indicate the trustworthiness
 1212 of the statement if it is offered in a criminal case as a statement that tends to expose the
 1213 declarant to criminal liability;

1214 (4) A statement concerning the declarant's own birth, adoption, marriage, divorce,
 1215 legitimacy, relationship by blood, adoption, or marriage, ancestry, or other similar fact
 1216 of personal or family history, even though the declarant had no means of acquiring
 1217 personal knowledge of the matter stated or a statement concerning the foregoing matters
 1218 and death also of another person, if the declarant was related to the other by blood,
 1219 adoption, or marriage or was so intimately associated with the other's family as to be
 1220 likely to have accurate information concerning the matter declared; or

1221 (5) A statement offered against a party that has engaged or acquiesced in wrongdoing
 1222 that was intended to, and did, procure the unavailability of the declarant as a witness.

1223 24-8-805.

1224 Hearsay included within hearsay shall not be excluded under the hearsay rule if each part
 1225 of the combined statements conforms with an exception to the hearsay rule.

1226 24-8-806.

1227 When a hearsay statement has been admitted in evidence, the credibility of the declarant
 1228 may be attacked and, if attacked, may be supported by any evidence which would be
 1229 admissible for those purposes if the declarant had testified as a witness. Evidence of a
 1230 statement or conduct by the declarant at any time, inconsistent with the declarant's hearsay
 1231 statement, shall not be subject to any requirement that the declarant may have been
 1232 afforded an opportunity to deny or explain. If the party against whom a hearsay statement
 1233 has been admitted calls the declarant as a witness, the party shall be entitled to examine the
 1234 declarant on the statement as if under cross-examination.

1235 24-8-807.

1236 A statement not specifically covered by any law but having equivalent circumstantial
 1237 guarantees of trustworthiness shall not be excluded by the hearsay rule, if the court
 1238 determines that:

1239 (1) The statement is offered as evidence of a material fact;

1240 (2) The statement is more probative on the point for which it is offered than any other
 1241 evidence which the proponent can procure through reasonable efforts; and

1242 (3) The general purposes of the rules of evidence and the interests of justice will best be
1243 served by admission of the statement into evidence.
1244 However, a statement may not be admitted under this Code section unless the proponent
1245 of it makes known to the adverse party, sufficiently in advance of the trial or hearing to
1246 provide the adverse party with a fair opportunity to prepare to meet it, the proponent's
1247 intention to offer the statement and the particulars of it, including the name and address of
1248 the declarant.

1249 ARTICLE 2

1250 24-8-820.

1251 A statement made by a child under the age of 14 years describing any act of sexual contact
1252 or physical abuse performed with or on the child by another shall be admissible in evidence
1253 by the testimony of the person to whom made if the child is available to testify in the
1254 proceedings and the court finds that the circumstances of the statement provide sufficient
1255 indicia of reliability.

1256 24-8-821.

1257 Without offering the same in evidence, either party may avail himself or herself of
1258 allegations or admissions made in the pleadings of the other.

1259 24-8-822.

1260 When an admission is given in evidence by one party, it shall be the right of the other party
1261 to have the whole admission and all the conversation connected therewith admitted into
1262 evidence.

1263 24-8-823.

1264 All admissions shall be scanned with care, and confessions of guilt shall be received with
1265 great caution. A confession alone, uncorroborated by any other evidence, shall not justify
1266 a conviction.

1267 24-8-824.

1268 To make a confession admissible, it shall have been made voluntarily, without being
1269 induced by another by the slightest hope of benefit or remotest fear of injury.

1270 24-8-825.

1271 The fact that a confession has been made under a spiritual exhortation, a promise of
 1272 secrecy, or a promise of collateral benefit shall not exclude it.

1273 24-8-826.

1274 (a) Upon the trial of any civil proceeding involving injury or disease, any medical report
 1275 in narrative form which has been signed and dated by an examining or treating licensed
 1276 physician, dentist, orthodontist, podiatrist, physical or occupational therapist, doctor of
 1277 chiropractic, psychologist, advanced practice registered nurse, social worker, professional
 1278 counselor, or marriage and family therapist shall be admissible and received in evidence
 1279 insofar as it purports to represent the history, examination, diagnosis, treatment, prognosis,
 1280 or interpretation of tests or examinations, including the basis therefor, by the person signing
 1281 the report, the same as if that person were present at trial and testifying as a witness;
 1282 provided, however, that such report and notice of intention to introduce such report shall
 1283 first be provided to the adverse party at least 60 days prior to trial. A statement of the
 1284 qualifications of the person signing such report shall be included as part of the basis for
 1285 providing the information contained therein, and the opinion of the person signing the
 1286 report with regard to the etiology of the injury or disease may be included as part of the
 1287 diagnosis. Any adverse party may object to the admissibility of any portion of the report,
 1288 other than on the ground that it is hearsay, within 15 days of being provided with the report.
 1289 Further, any adverse party shall have the right to cross-examine the person signing the
 1290 report and provide rebuttal testimony. The party tendering the report may also introduce
 1291 testimony of the person signing the report for the purpose of supplementing the report or
 1292 otherwise.

1293 (b) The medical narrative shall be presented to the jury as depositions are presented to the
 1294 jury and shall not go out with the jury as documentary evidence.

1295 CHAPTER 9

1296 ARTICLE 1

1297 24-9-901.

1298 (a) The requirement of authentication or identification as a condition precedent to
 1299 admissibility shall be satisfied by evidence sufficient to support a finding that the matter
 1300 in question is what its proponent claims.

1301 (b) By way of illustration only, and not by way of limitation, the following are examples
 1302 of authentication or identification conforming with the requirements of this Code section:

1303 (1) Testimony of a witness with knowledge that a matter is what it is claimed to be;

- 1304 (2) Nonexpert opinion as to the genuineness of handwriting, based upon familiarity not
 1305 acquired for purposes of the litigation;
- 1306 (3) Comparison by the trier of fact or by expert witnesses with specimens which have
 1307 been authenticated. Such specimens shall be furnished to the opposite party no later than
 1308 ten days prior to trial;
- 1309 (4) Appearance, contents, substance, internal patterns, or other distinctive characteristics,
 1310 taken in conjunction with circumstances;
- 1311 (5) Identification of a voice, whether heard firsthand or through mechanical or electronic
 1312 transmission or recording, by opinion based upon hearing the voice at any time under
 1313 circumstances connecting it with the alleged speaker;
- 1314 (6) Telephone conversations, by evidence that a call was made to the number assigned
 1315 at the time by a telephone service provider to a particular person or business, if:
- 1316 (A) In the case of a person, circumstances, including self-identification, show the
 1317 person answering to be the one called; or
- 1318 (B) In the case of a business, the call was made to a place of business and the
 1319 conversation related to business reasonably transacted over the telephone;
- 1320 (7) Evidence that a document authorized by law to be recorded or filed and in fact
 1321 recorded or filed in a public office or a purported public record, report, statement, or data
 1322 compilation, in any form, is from the public office where items of this nature are kept;
- 1323 (8) Evidence that a document or data compilation, in any form:
- 1324 (A) Is in such condition as to create no suspicion concerning its authenticity;
- 1325 (B) Was in a place where it, if authentic, would likely be; and
- 1326 (C) Has been in existence 20 years or more at the time it is offered;
- 1327 (9) Evidence describing a process or system used to produce a result and showing that
 1328 the process or system produces an accurate result; or
- 1329 (10) Any method of authentication or identification provided by law.

1330 24-9-902.

1331 Extrinsic evidence of authenticity as a condition precedent to admissibility shall not be
 1332 required with respect to the following:

- 1333 (1) A document bearing a seal purporting to be that of the United States or of any state,
 1334 district, commonwealth, territory, or insular possession thereof or the Panama Canal Zone
 1335 or the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands or of a political subdivision, department,
 1336 officer, or agency thereof or of a municipal corporation of this state and bearing a
 1337 signature purporting to be an attestation or execution;
- 1338 (2) A document purporting to bear the signature in the official capacity of an officer or
 1339 employee of any entity included in paragraph (1) of this Code section having no seal, if

1340 a public officer having a seal and having official duties in the district or political
1341 subdivision of the officer or employee certifies under seal that the signer has the official
1342 capacity and that the signature is genuine;

1343 (3) A document purporting to be executed or attested in an official capacity by a person
1344 authorized by the laws of a foreign country to make such execution or attestation and
1345 accompanied by a final certification as to the genuineness of the signature, official
1346 position of the executing or attesting person, or of any foreign official whose certificate
1347 of genuineness of signature and official position relates to such execution or attestation
1348 or is in a chain of certificates of genuineness of signature and official position relating to
1349 such execution or attestation. A final certification may be made by a secretary of
1350 embassy or legation, consul general, consul, vice consul, or consular agent of the United
1351 States or a diplomatic or consular official of the foreign country assigned or accredited
1352 to the United States. If reasonable opportunity has been given to all parties to investigate
1353 the authenticity and accuracy of official documents, the court may, for good cause shown,
1354 order that such documents be treated as presumptively authentic without final
1355 certification or permit such documents to be evidenced by an attested summary with or
1356 without final certification;

1357 (4) A duplicate of an official record or report or entry therein or of a document
1358 authorized by law to be recorded or filed and actually recorded or filed in a public office,
1359 including data compilations in any form, certified as correct by the custodian or other
1360 person authorized to make the certification by certificate complying with paragraph (1),
1361 (2), or (3) of this Code section or complying with any law of the United States or of this
1362 state, including Code Section 24-9-920;

1363 (5) Books, pamphlets, or other publications purporting to be issued by a public office;

1364 (6) Printed materials purporting to be newspapers or periodicals;

1365 (7) Inscriptions, signs, tags, or labels purporting to have been affixed in the course of
1366 business and indicating ownership, control, or origin;

1367 (8) Documents accompanied by a certificate of acknowledgment executed in the manner
1368 provided by law by a notary public or other officer authorized by law to take
1369 acknowledgments;

1370 (9) Commercial paper, signatures thereon, and documents relating thereto to the extent
1371 provided by general commercial law;

1372 (10) Any signature, document, or other matter declared by any law of the United States
1373 or of this state to be presumptively or prima facie genuine or authentic;

1374 (11) The original or a duplicate of a domestic record of regularly conducted activity that
1375 would be admissible under paragraph (6) of Code Section 24-8-803 if accompanied by
1376 a written declaration of its custodian or other qualified person certifying that the record:

- 1377 (A) Was made at or near the time of the occurrence of the matters set forth by, or from
 1378 information transmitted by, a person with knowledge of such matters;
 1379 (B) Was kept in the course of the regularly conducted activity; and
 1380 (C) Was made by the regularly conducted activity as a regular practice.

1381 A party intending to offer a record into evidence under this paragraph shall provide
 1382 written notice of such intention to all adverse parties and shall make the record and
 1383 declaration available for inspection sufficiently in advance of their offer into evidence to
 1384 provide an adverse party with a fair opportunity to challenge such record and declaration;
 1385 or

1386 (12) In a civil proceeding, the original or a duplicate of a foreign record of regularly
 1387 conducted activity that would be admissible under paragraph (6) of Code Section
 1388 24-8-803 if accompanied by a written declaration by its custodian or other qualified
 1389 person certifying that the record:

- 1390 (A) Was made at or near the time of the occurrence of the matters set forth by, or from
 1391 information transmitted by, a person with knowledge of those matters;
 1392 (B) Was kept in the course of the regularly conducted activity; and
 1393 (C) Was made by the regularly conducted activity as a regular practice.

1394 The declaration shall be signed in a manner that, if falsely made, would subject the maker
 1395 to criminal penalty under the laws of the country where the declaration is signed. A party
 1396 intending to offer a record into evidence under this paragraph shall provide written notice
 1397 of such intention to all adverse parties and shall make the record and declaration available
 1398 for inspection sufficiently in advance of their offer into evidence to provide an adverse
 1399 party with a fair opportunity to challenge such record and declaration.

1400 24-9-903.

1401 The testimony of a subscribing witness shall not be necessary to authenticate a writing
 1402 unless required by the laws of the jurisdiction whose laws govern the validity of the
 1403 writing.

1404 24-9-904.

1405 As used in this article, the term:

- 1406 (1) 'Public office' shall have the same meaning as set forth in Code Section 24-8-801.
 1407 (2) 'Public officer' means any person appointed or elected to be the head of any entity
 1408 included in paragraph (1) of Code Section 24-9-902.
 1409 (3) 'Telephone service provider' shall have the same meaning as 'voice service provider'
 1410 as set forth in Code Section 46-5-231.

1411 ARTICLE 21412 24-9-920.

1413 The certificate or attestation of any public officer either of this state or any county thereof
 1414 or any clerk or keeper of county, consolidated government, or municipal records in this
 1415 state shall give sufficient validity or authenticity to any copy or transcript of any record,
 1416 document, paper or file, or other matter or thing in such public officer's respective office,
 1417 or pertaining thereto, to admit the same in evidence.

1418 24-9-921.

1419 (a) Upon the trial of any civil proceeding involving injury or disease, the patient or the
 1420 member of his or her family or other person responsible for the care of the patient shall be
 1421 a competent witness to identify bills for expenses incurred in the treatment of the patient
 1422 upon a showing by such a witness that the expenses were incurred in connection with the
 1423 treatment of the injury, disease, or disability involved in the subject of litigation at trial and
 1424 that the bills were received from:

1425 (1) A hospital;1426 (2) An ambulance service;1427 (3) A pharmacy, drugstore, or supplier of therapeutic or orthopedic devices; or

1428 (4) A licensed practicing physician, dentist, orthodontist, podiatrist, physical or
 1429 occupational therapist, doctor of chiropractic, psychologist, advanced practice registered
 1430 nurse, social worker, professional counselor, or marriage and family therapist.

1431 (b) Such items of evidence need not be identified by the one who submits the bill, and it
 1432 shall not be necessary for an expert witness to testify that the charges were reasonable and
 1433 necessary. However, nothing in this Code section shall be construed to limit the right of
 1434 a thorough and sifting cross-examination as to such items of evidence.

1435 24-9-922.

1436 The acts of the legislature of any other state, territory, or possession of the United States,
 1437 the records and judicial proceedings of any court of any such state, territory, or possession,
 1438 and the nonjudicial records or books kept in the public offices in any such state, territory,
 1439 or possession, if properly authenticated, shall have the same full faith and credit in every
 1440 court within this state as they have by law or usage in the courts of such state, territory, or
 1441 possession from which they are taken.

1442 24-9-923.

1443 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'unavailability of a witness' includes situations
1444 in which the authenticating witness:

1445 (1) Is exempted by ruling of the court on the ground of privilege from testifying
1446 concerning the subject matter of the authentication;

1447 (2) Persists in refusing to testify concerning the subject matter of the authentication
1448 despite an order of the court to do so;

1449 (3) Testifies to a lack of memory of the subject matter of the authentication;

1450 (4) Is unable to be present or to testify at the hearing because of death or then existing
1451 physical or mental illness or infirmity; or

1452 (5) Is absent from the hearing and the proponent of the authentication has been unable
1453 to procure the attendance of the authenticating witness by process or other reasonable
1454 means.

1455 An authenticating witness shall not be deemed unavailable as a witness if his or her
1456 exemption, refusal, claim of lack of memory, inability, or absence is due to the
1457 procurement or wrongdoing of the proponent of an authentication for the purpose of
1458 preventing the witness from attending or testifying.

1459 (b) Subject to any other valid objection, photographs, motion pictures, video recordings,
1460 and audio recordings shall be admissible in evidence when necessitated by the
1461 unavailability of a witness who can provide personal authentication and when the court
1462 determines, based on competent evidence presented to the court, that such items tend to
1463 show reliably the fact or facts for which the items are offered.

1464 (c) Subject to any other valid objection, photographs, motion pictures, video recordings,
1465 and audio recordings produced at a time when the device producing the items was not
1466 being operated by an individual person or was not under the personal control or in the
1467 presence of an individual operator shall be admissible in evidence when the court
1468 determines, based on competent evidence presented to the court, that such items tend to
1469 show reliably the fact or facts for which the items are offered, provided that, prior to the
1470 admission of such evidence, the date and time of such photograph, motion picture, or video
1471 recording shall be contained on such evidence, and such date and time shall be shown to
1472 have been made contemporaneously with the events depicted in such photograph, motion
1473 picture, or video recording.

1474 (d) This Code section shall not be the exclusive method of introduction into evidence of
1475 photographs, motion pictures, video recordings, and audio recordings but shall be
1476 supplementary to any other law and lawful methods existing in this state.

1477 24-9-924.

1478 (a) Any court may receive and use as evidence in any proceeding information otherwise
 1479 admissible from the records of the Department of Public Safety or the Department of
 1480 Driver Services obtained from any terminal lawfully connected to the Georgia Crime
 1481 Information Center without the need for additional certification of such records.

1482 (b) Any court may receive and use as evidence for the purpose of imposing a sentence in
 1483 any criminal proceeding information otherwise admissible from the records of the
 1484 Department of Driver Services obtained from a request made in accordance with a contract
 1485 with the Georgia Technology Authority for immediate on-line electronic furnishing of
 1486 information.

1487 CHAPTER 10

1488 24-10-1001.

1489 As used in this chapter, the term:

1490 (1) 'Writing' or 'recording' means letters, words, or numbers, or their equivalent, set down
 1491 by handwriting, typewriting, printing, photostating, magnetic impulse, or mechanical or
 1492 electronic recording or other form of data compilation.

1493 (2) 'Photograph' includes still photographs, X-ray films, video recordings, and motion
 1494 pictures.

1495 (3) 'Original' means the writing or recording itself or any counterpart intended to have
 1496 the same effect by a person executing or issuing it. An original of a photograph includes
 1497 the negative or any print therefrom. If data are stored in a computer or similar device,
 1498 any printout or other output readable by sight, shown to reflect the data accurately, is an
 1499 original.

1500 (4) 'Duplicate' means a counterpart produced by the same impression as the original or
 1501 from the same matrix or by means of photography, including enlargements and
 1502 miniatures, or by mechanical or electronic rerecording, chemical reproduction, or other
 1503 equivalent techniques which accurately reproduce the original.

1504 (5) 'Public record' shall have the same meaning as set forth in Code Section 24-8-801.

1505 24-10-1002.

1506 To prove the contents of a writing, recording, or photograph, the original writing,
 1507 recording, or photograph shall be required.

1508 24-10-1003.

1509 A duplicate shall be admissible to the same extent as an original unless:

1510 (1) A genuine question is raised as to the authenticity of the original; or
1511 (2) A circumstance exists where it would be unfair to admit the duplicate in lieu of the
1512 original.

1513 24-10-1004.

1514 The original shall not be required and other evidence of the contents of a writing,
1515 recording, or photograph shall be admissible if:

1516 (1) All originals are lost or have been destroyed, unless the proponent lost or destroyed
1517 them in bad faith;

1518 (2) No original can be obtained by any available judicial process or procedure;

1519 (3) At a time when an original was under the control of the party against whom offered,
1520 that party was put on notice, by the pleadings or otherwise, that the contents would be a
1521 subject of proof at the hearing, and that party does not produce the original at the hearing;

1522 or

1523 (4) The writing, recording, or photograph is not closely related to a controlling issue.

1524 24-10-1005.

1525 The contents of a public record, or of a document authorized to be recorded or filed and
1526 actually recorded or filed, including data compilations in any form, if otherwise admissible,
1527 may be proved by duplicate, certified as correct in accordance with Code Section 24-9-902
1528 or Code Section 24-9-920 or testified to be correct by a witness who has compared it with
1529 the original. If a duplicate which complies with this Code section cannot be obtained by
1530 the exercise of reasonable diligence, then other evidence of the contents may be given.

1531 24-10-1006.

1532 The contents of otherwise admissible voluminous writings, recordings, or photographs
1533 which cannot conveniently be examined in court may be presented in the form of a chart,
1534 summary, or calculation. The originals, or duplicates, shall be made available for
1535 examination or copying, or both, by other parties at a reasonable time and place. The court
1536 may order that the contents of such writings, recordings, or photographs be produced in
1537 court.

1538 24-10-1007.

1539 The contents of writings, recordings, or photographs may be proved by the testimony or
1540 deposition of the party against whom offered or by that party's written admission, without
1541 accounting for the nonproduction of the original.

1542 24-10-1008.

1543 When the admissibility of other evidence of the contents of writings, recordings, or
 1544 photographs under the rules of evidence depends upon the fulfillment of a condition of fact,
 1545 the question of whether the condition has been fulfilled is ordinarily for the court to
 1546 determine in accordance with the provisions of Code Section 24-1-104; provided, however,
 1547 that when an issue is raised as to:

1548 (1) Whether the asserted writing, recording, or photograph ever existed;

1549 (2) Whether another writing, recording, or photograph produced at the trial is the
 1550 original; or

1551 (3) Whether other evidence of the contents correctly reflects the contents,

1552 the issue is for the trier of fact to determine as in the case of other issues of fact.

1553 CHAPTER 11

1554 ARTICLE 1

1555 24-11-1.

1556 As used in this chapter, the term:

1557 (1) 'Custodian' means the person charged with the duty of maintaining public records.

1558 (2) 'Duplicate' means a counterpart which accurately reproduces the original.

1559 (3) 'Public record' shall have the same meaning as set forth in Code Section 24-8-801.

1560 24-11-2.

1561 (a) Where any original public records have been lost, mutilated, stolen, or destroyed, the
 1562 custodian may establish duplicates in accordance with the provisions of this article. When
 1563 such public records are established by duplicates, they shall have all of the effect in
 1564 evidence as the original records would have had.

1565 (b) The custodian of the lost, mutilated, stolen, or destroyed public records shall bring a
 1566 petition to establish such records in the superior court of the county in which the public
 1567 records were located.

1568 (c) The petition shall set forth the fact that some portion of the public records has been
 1569 lost, mutilated, stolen, or destroyed, specifying as nearly as may be possible the books or
 1570 parts of the books in which those records existed, and shall pray for the establishment of
 1571 such records.

1572 24-11-3.

1573 (a) The court shall either appoint an auditor for such petition in accordance with Chapter
 1574 7 of Title 9 or shall conduct a hearing on the petition. If an auditor is appointed, the

1575 provisions of Code Sections 9-7-1 through 9-7-16 and Code Section 9-7-21 shall apply to
 1576 such proceedings. An auditor shall receive compensation for services rendered as may be
 1577 allowed by the court, to be paid out of the funds of the office of the custodian whose
 1578 records were lost, mutilated, stolen, or destroyed.

1579 (b) If the court hears the petition, after receiving evidence, the court shall determine
 1580 whether the purported duplicate is, in fact, the same as the original record which has been
 1581 lost, mutilated, stolen, or destroyed, and it shall be discretionary with the court to order the
 1582 whole or any part of such records established. The court shall give precedence to a petition
 1583 filed pursuant to this article and hear the petition as speedily as possible.

1584 (c) The duplicates which are established pursuant to this Code section, as nearly as may
 1585 be possible, shall specify and conform to the original book and pages of the same on which
 1586 they originally existed.

1587 ARTICLE 2

1588 24-11-20.

1589 (a) Upon the loss of any original pleading, declaration, bill of indictment, special
 1590 presentment, accusation, or other office paper, a duplicate may be established instanter on
 1591 motion.

1592 (b) As used in this article, the term 'office paper' means the instrument upon which a
 1593 proceeding has been brought after the case has gone to trial.

1594 24-11-21.

1595 (a) The owner, agent of the owner, or legal representative of the owner of any bond, bill,
 1596 note, draft, check, or other evidence of indebtedness which has been lost or destroyed may
 1597 establish a duplicate of the same in a summary manner by filing a petition with the judge
 1598 of the probate court of the county of the residence of the alleged debtor or maker, if he or
 1599 she is a resident of this state; and the judge of the probate court shall be deemed a judicial
 1600 officer for the purpose of this Code section. The petition shall be sworn to by the party
 1601 applying and shall contain as full and accurate a description as possible of the lost paper,
 1602 of the loss and mode of loss, and of the inability to find the same and why, along with a
 1603 prayer for the establishment of a duplicate setting forth the duplicate desired to be
 1604 established.

1605 (b) Upon the filing of a petition, the judge shall issue a citation or notice to the alleged
 1606 debtor or maker requiring the debtor or maker to appear at a day not more than ten days
 1607 distant and show cause, if he or she has any, why the duplicate should not be established

1608 in lieu of the lost original. The citation or notice shall be personally served in the manner
 1609 provided in Code Section 9-11-4 at least five days before the time of the hearing.

1610 (c) If no successful defense is made at the time and place appointed, the judge shall
 1611 proceed to establish, by an order entered on the petition, the duplicate so prayed to be
 1612 established, which shall have all the effect of the original. The petition, notice, and order
 1613 shall be entered in a book of record specially prepared for this purpose.

1614 (d) If the debtor or maker files a defense under oath to the effect that the original never
 1615 existed as claimed, the judge shall decide the case, after giving the parties time for
 1616 preparation and hearing, not to exceed 20 days. If the judge's decision is in favor of the
 1617 applicant and no appeal is entered as provided in subsection (e) of this Code section, the
 1618 decision shall be entered on the petition, and the duplicate so established shall have the
 1619 same effect as an original. If the judge's decision is in favor of the alleged debtor or maker,
 1620 the judge shall also enter his or her decision on the petition. In all cases, the proceedings
 1621 shall be recorded as provided in subsection (c) of this Code section.

1622 (e) Except as provided in Article 6 of Chapter 9 of Title 15, if either party to the
 1623 proceedings provided for in this Code section is dissatisfied, such party may appeal upon
 1624 giving the usual bond and security for costs, as in cases of appeal from the probate court
 1625 to the superior court. The appeal shall be tried in the superior court from all the pleadings
 1626 and proceedings as were before the judge of the probate court. In the superior court, the
 1627 case shall be tried and determined as provided in Code Sections 24-11-23 through
 1628 24-11-26.

1629 (f) This Code section shall not apply to evidences of indebtedness to which Title 11, the
 1630 'Uniform Commercial Code,' is applicable.

1631 24-11-22.

1632 When the person alleged to be a debtor or maker of a lost or destroyed paper as set forth
 1633 in Code Section 24-11-21 does not reside in this state, the alleged debtor or maker may be
 1634 made a party to the proceedings by publication, in a newspaper to be designated by the
 1635 judge of the probate court, twice a month for two months. When the person has been made
 1636 a party, this article shall apply in his or her case.

1637 24-11-23.

1638 (a) The owner of a lost or destroyed paper which is not an office paper, as defined in Code
 1639 Section 24-11-20, who desires to establish such paper shall present to the clerk of the
 1640 superior court of the county where the maker of the paper resides, if the maker is a resident
 1641 of this state, a petition in writing, together with a duplicate, in substance, of the paper lost

1642 or destroyed, as nearly as he or she can recollect, which duplicate shall be sworn to by the
1643 petitioner, the petitioner's agent, or the petitioner's attorney.

1644 (b) The clerk shall issue a rule nisi in the name of the judge of the superior court calling
1645 upon the opposite party to show cause, if he or she has any, why the duplicate sworn to
1646 should not be established in lieu of the lost or destroyed original. If the respondent is found
1647 in this state, the rule nisi shall be served personally upon the respondent in the manner
1648 provided by Code Section 9-11-4 at least 20 days before the sitting of the court to which
1649 the rule nisi is made returnable. If the respondent cannot be found in this state, the rule nisi
1650 shall be served upon the respondent by publication in the manner provided in Code Section
1651 9-11-4 before the final hearing of the rule nisi.

1652 24-11-24.

1653 In a proceeding to establish lost papers under Code Section 24-11-23, no continuance shall
1654 be granted unless it appears reasonable and just to the court; nor shall a continuance be
1655 allowed to the same party more than once, except for providential cause.

1656 24-11-25.

1657 When a rule nisi has been served as provided in Code Section 24-11-23, the court shall
1658 grant a rule absolute establishing the duplicate of the lost or destroyed paper sworn to,
1659 unless good and sufficient cause is shown why the rule absolute should not be granted.

1660 24-11-26.

1661 When the duplicate of the lost or destroyed paper is established, the clerk of the court in
1662 which it is done shall furnish the duplicate to the party who had it established, with a
1663 certified endorsement thereon of the day and term of the court when the rule absolute was
1664 granted, provided all costs of the proceeding have been paid.

1665 24-11-27.

1666 (a) If the paper which has been lost or destroyed is a note, bill, bond, or other instrument
1667 upon which a proceeding may be brought, the owner may institute a proceeding thereon
1668 as soon as the rule nisi has been issued as provided for in Code Section 24-11-23. The
1669 complaint shall set forth that the paper upon which the proceeding is based is lost or
1670 destroyed. In no case shall a judgment be entered in the proceeding until it is determined
1671 whether the application to establish the paper is granted or not. If the application is
1672 granted, then judgment shall be entered as in other proceedings.

1673 (b) In a proceeding as provided for in subsection (a) of this Code section, production of
1674 the paper upon which the proceeding is based shall not be demanded until the time for

1675 rendition of judgment in the proceeding; at that time, if the plaintiff produces a duplicate
 1676 of the paper with a certified endorsement thereon by the clerk of the court in which it was
 1677 established, as provided in Code Section 24-11-26, it shall be taken and considered as the
 1678 original.

1679 (c) This Code section shall not apply to instruments to which Title 11, the 'Uniform
 1680 Commercial Code,' is applicable.

1681 24-11-28.

1682 In all proceedings for the purpose of establishing any lost or destroyed paper other than an
 1683 office paper, as defined in Code Section 24-11-20, any person whose interest will be
 1684 affected by the establishment of the lost paper shall, upon motion, by order of the court, be
 1685 made a party respondent in the proceeding and shall be allowed all the rights of defense
 1686 against the establishment of the paper as fully as if he or she was the maker of the lost
 1687 paper.

1688 24-11-29.

1689 Other than Code Section 24-11-20, this article shall not apply to lost or destroyed papers
 1690 to which Title 11, the 'Uniform Commercial Code,' is applicable.

1691 CHAPTER 12

1692 ARTICLE 1

1693 24-12-1.

1694 (a) No physician licensed under Chapter 34 of Title 43 and no hospital or health care
 1695 facility, including those operated by an agency or bureau of this state or other governmental
 1696 unit, shall be required to release any medical information concerning a patient except to the
 1697 Department of Community Health, its divisions, agents, or successors when required in the
 1698 administration of public health programs pursuant to Code Section 31-12-2 and where
 1699 authorized or required by law, statute, or lawful regulation; or on written authorization or
 1700 other waiver by the patient, or by his or her parents or duly appointed guardian ad litem in
 1701 the case of a minor, or on appropriate court order or subpoena; provided, however, that any
 1702 physician, hospital, or health care facility releasing information under written authorization
 1703 or other waiver by the patient, or by his or her parents or guardian ad litem in the case of
 1704 a minor, or pursuant to law, statute, or lawful regulation, or under court order or subpoena
 1705 shall not be liable to the patient or any other person; provided, further, that the privilege
 1706 shall be waived to the extent that the patient places his or her care and treatment or the
 1707 nature and extent of his or her injuries at issue in any judicial proceeding. This Code

1708 section shall not apply to psychiatrists or to hospitals in which the patient is being or has
1709 been treated solely for mental illness.

1710 (b) No pharmacist licensed under Chapter 4 of Title 26 shall be required to release any
1711 medical information concerning a patient except on written authorization or other waiver
1712 by the patient, or by his or her parents or duly appointed guardian ad litem in the case of
1713 a minor, or upon appropriate court order or subpoena; provided, however, that any
1714 pharmacist releasing information under written authorization or other waiver by the patient,
1715 or by his or her parents or duly appointed guardian ad litem in the case of a minor, or upon
1716 appropriate court order or subpoena shall not be liable to the patient or any other person;
1717 provided, further, that the privilege shall be waived to the extent that the patient places his
1718 or her care and treatment or the nature and extent of his or her injuries at issue in any
1719 judicial proceeding.

1720 24-12-2.

1721 (a) The General Assembly finds and declares that protecting the confidentiality of research
1722 data from disclosure in judicial and administrative proceedings is essential to safeguarding
1723 the integrity of research in this state, guaranteeing the privacy of individuals who
1724 participate in research projects, and ensuring the continuation of research in science,
1725 medicine, and other fields that benefits the citizens and institutions of Georgia and other
1726 states. The protection of such research data has more than local significance, is of equal
1727 importance to all citizens of this state, is of state-wide concern, and consequently is
1728 properly a matter for regulation under the police power of this state.

1729 (b) As used in this Code section, the term 'confidential raw research data' means medical
1730 information, interview responses, reports, statements, memoranda, or other data relating
1731 to the condition, treatment, or characteristics of any person which are gathered by or
1732 provided to a researcher:

1733 (1) In support of a research study approved by an appropriate research oversight
1734 committee of a hospital, health care facility, or educational institution; and

1735 (2) With the objective to develop, study, or report aggregate or anonymous information
1736 not intended to be used in any way in which the identity of an individual is material to the
1737 results.

1738 The term shall not include published compilations of the raw research data created by the
1739 researcher or the researcher's published summaries, findings, analyses, or conclusions
1740 related to the research study.

1741 (c) Confidential raw research data in a researcher's possession shall not be subject to
1742 subpoena, otherwise discoverable, or deemed admissible as evidence in any judicial or

1743 administrative proceeding in any court except as otherwise provided in subsection (d) of
1744 this Code section.

1745 (d) Confidential raw research data may be released, disclosed, subject to subpoena,
1746 otherwise discoverable, or deemed admissible as evidence in a judicial or administrative
1747 proceeding as follows:

1748 (1) Confidential raw research data related to a person may be disclosed to that person or
1749 to another person on such person's behalf where the authority is otherwise specifically
1750 provided by law;

1751 (2) Confidential raw research data related to a person may be disclosed to any person or
1752 legal entity designated to receive that information when that designation is made in
1753 writing by the research participant or where a designation is made in writing by a person
1754 authorized by law to act for the participant;

1755 (3) Confidential raw research data related to a person may be disclosed to any agency or
1756 department of the federal government, this state, or any political subdivision of this state
1757 if such data are required by law or regulation to be reported to such agency or
1758 department;

1759 (4) Confidential raw research data may be disclosed in any proceeding in which a party
1760 was a participant, researcher, or sponsor in the underlying research study, including, but
1761 not limited to, any judicial or administrative proceeding in which a research participant
1762 places his or her care, treatment, injuries, insurance coverage, or benefit plan coverage
1763 at issue; provided, however, that the identity of any research participant other than the
1764 party to the judicial or administrative proceeding shall not be disclosed, unless the
1765 researcher or sponsor is a defendant in such proceeding;

1766 (5) Confidential raw research data may be disclosed in any judicial or administrative
1767 proceeding in which the researcher has either volunteered to testify or has been hired to
1768 testify as an expert by one of the parties to such proceeding; and

1769 (6) In a criminal proceeding, the court shall order the production of confidential raw
1770 research data if the data are relevant to any issue in the proceeding, impose appropriate
1771 safeguards against unauthorized disclosure of the data, and admit confidential raw
1772 research data into evidence if the data are material to the defense or prosecution.

1773 (e) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to permit, require, or prohibit the
1774 disclosure of confidential raw research data in any setting other than a judicial or
1775 administrative proceeding that is governed by the requirements of this title.

1776 (f) Any disclosure of confidential raw research data authorized or required by this Code
1777 section or any other law shall in no way destroy the confidential nature of that data except
1778 for the purpose for which the authorized or required disclosure is made.

1779

ARTICLE 21780 24-12-10.1781 As used in this article, the term:

1782 (1) 'Confidential or privileged' means the protection afforded by law from unauthorized
 1783 disclosure, whether the protection is afforded by law as developed and applied by the
 1784 courts, by statute or lawful regulations, or by the requirements of the Constitutions of the
 1785 State of Georgia or the United States. The term 'confidential or privileged' also includes
 1786 protection afforded by law from compulsory process or testimony.

1787 (2) 'Disclosure' means the act of transmitting or communicating medical matter to a
 1788 person who would not otherwise have access thereto.

1789 (3) 'Health care facility' means any institution or place in which health care is rendered
 1790 to persons, which health care includes, but is not limited to, medical, psychiatric, acute,
 1791 intermediate, rehabilitative, and long-term care.

1792 (4) 'Laws requiring disclosure' means laws and statutes of the State of Georgia and of the
 1793 United States and lawful regulations issued by any department or agency of the State of
 1794 Georgia or of the United States which require the review, analysis, or use of medical
 1795 matter by persons not originally having authorized access thereto. The term 'laws
 1796 requiring disclosure' also includes any authorized practice of disclosure for purposes of
 1797 evaluating claims for reimbursement for charges or expenses under any public or private
 1798 reimbursement or insurance program.

1799 (5) 'Limited consent to disclosure' means proper authorization given by or on behalf of
 1800 a person entitled to protection from disclosure of medical matter and given for a specific
 1801 purpose related to such person's health or related to such person's application for
 1802 insurance or like benefits.

1803 (6) 'Medical matter' means information respecting the medical or psychiatric condition,
 1804 including without limitation the physical and the mental condition, of a natural person or
 1805 persons, however recorded, obtained, or communicated.

1806 (7) 'Nurse' means a person authorized by license issued under Chapter 26 of Title 43 as
 1807 a registered professional nurse or licensed practical nurse to practice nursing.

1808 (8) 'Physician' means any person lawfully licensed in this state to practice medicine and
 1809 surgery pursuant to Chapter 34 of Title 43.

1810 24-12-11.

1811 The disclosure of confidential or privileged medical matter constituting all or part of a
 1812 record kept by a health care facility, a nurse, or a physician, pursuant to laws requiring
 1813 disclosure or pursuant to limited consent to disclosure, shall not serve to destroy or in any

1814 way abridge the confidential or privileged character thereof, except for the purpose for
 1815 which such disclosure is made.

1816 24-12-12.

1817 Persons to whom confidential or privileged medical matter is disclosed in the
 1818 circumstances described in Code Section 24-12-11 shall utilize such matter only in
 1819 connection with the purpose or purposes of such disclosure and thereafter shall keep such
 1820 matter in confidence. However, nothing in this article shall prohibit the use of such matter
 1821 where otherwise authorized by law.

1822 24-12-13.

1823 Any person, corporation, authority, or other legal entity acting in good faith shall be
 1824 immune from liability for the transmission, receipt, or use of medical matter disclosed
 1825 pursuant to laws requiring disclosure or pursuant to limited consent to disclosure.

1826 24-12-14.

1827 Nothing in this article shall be construed to prevent the customary and usual audit,
 1828 discussion, and presentation of cases in connection with medical and public education.

1829 ARTICLE 3

1830 24-12-20.

1831 AIDS confidential information as defined in Code Section 31-22-9.1 and disclosed or
 1832 discovered within the patient-physician relationship shall be confidential and shall not be
 1833 disclosed except as otherwise provided in Code Section 24-12-21.

1834 24-12-21.

1835 (a) Any term used in this Code section and defined in Code Section 31-22-9.1 shall have
 1836 the meaning provided for such term in Code Section 31-22-9.1.

1837 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this Code section:

1838 (1) No person or legal entity which receives AIDS confidential information pursuant to
 1839 this Code section or which is responsible for recording, reporting, or maintaining AIDS
 1840 confidential information shall:

1841 (A) Intentionally or knowingly disclose that information to another person or legal
 1842 entity; or

1843 (B) Be compelled by subpoena, court order, or other judicial process to disclose that
 1844 information to another person or legal entity; and

1845 (2) No person or legal entity which receives AIDS confidential information which that
 1846 person or legal entity knows was disclosed in violation of paragraph (1) of this subsection
 1847 shall:

1848 (A) Intentionally or knowingly disclose that information to another person or legal
 1849 entity; or

1850 (B) Be compelled by subpoena, court order, or other judicial process to disclose that
 1851 information to another person or legal entity.

1852 (c) AIDS confidential information shall be disclosed to the person identified by that
 1853 information or, if that person is a minor or incompetent person, to that person's parent or
 1854 legal guardian.

1855 (d) AIDS confidential information shall be disclosed to any person or legal entity
 1856 designated to receive that information when that designation is made in writing by the
 1857 person identified by that information or, if that person is a minor or incompetent person,
 1858 by that person's parent or legal guardian.

1859 (e) AIDS confidential information shall be disclosed to any agency or department of the
 1860 federal government, this state, or any political subdivision of this state if that information
 1861 is authorized or required by law to be reported to that agency or department.

1862 (f) The results of an HIV test shall be disclosed to the person, or that person's designated
 1863 representative, who ordered such tests of the body fluids or tissue of another person.

1864 (g) When the patient of a physician has been determined to be infected with HIV and that
 1865 patient's physician reasonably believes that the spouse or sexual partner or any child of the
 1866 patient, spouse, or sexual partner is a person at risk of being infected with HIV by that
 1867 patient, the physician may disclose to that spouse, sexual partner, or child that the patient
 1868 has been determined to be infected with HIV, after first attempting to notify the patient that
 1869 such disclosure is going to be made.

1870 (h)(1) An administrator of an institution licensed as a hospital by the Department of
 1871 Community Health or a physician having a patient who has been determined to be
 1872 infected with HIV may disclose to the Department of Community Health:

1873 (A) The name and address of that patient;

1874 (B) That such patient has been determined to be infected with HIV; and

1875 (C) The name and address of any other person whom the disclosing physician or
 1876 administrator reasonably believes to be a person at risk of being infected with HIV by
 1877 that patient.

1878 (2) When mandatory and nonanonymous reporting of confirmed positive HIV tests to
 1879 the Department of Community Health is determined by that department to be reasonably
 1880 necessary, that department shall establish by regulation a date on and after which such
 1881 reporting shall be required. On and after the date so established, each health care

1882 provider, health care facility, or any other person or legal entity which orders an HIV test
 1883 for another person shall report to the Department of Community Health the name and
 1884 address of any person thereby determined to be infected with HIV. No such report shall
 1885 be made regarding any confirmed positive HIV test provided at any anonymous HIV test
 1886 site operated by or on behalf of the Department of Community Health.

1887 (3) The Department of Community Health may disclose that a person has been reported,
 1888 under paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection, to have been determined to be infected with
 1889 HIV to the board of health of the county in which that person resides or is located if
 1890 reasonably necessary to protect the health and safety of that person or other persons who
 1891 may have come in contact with the body fluids of the HIV infected person. The
 1892 Department of Community Health or county board of health to which information is
 1893 disclosed pursuant to this paragraph or paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection:

1894 (A) May contact any person named in such disclosure as having been determined to
 1895 be an HIV infected person for the purpose of counseling that person and requesting
 1896 therefrom the name of any other person who may be a person at risk of being infected
 1897 with HIV by that HIV infected person;

1898 (B) May contact any other person reasonably believed to be a person at risk of being
 1899 infected with HIV by that HIV infected person for the purposes of disclosing that such
 1900 infected person has been determined to be infected with HIV and counseling such
 1901 person to submit to an HIV test; and

1902 (C) Shall contact and provide counseling to the spouse of any HIV infected person
 1903 whose name is thus disclosed if both persons are reasonably likely to have engaged in
 1904 sexual intercourse or any other act determined by the Department of Community Health
 1905 likely to have resulted in the transmission of HIV between such persons within the
 1906 preceding seven years and if that spouse may be located and contacted without undue
 1907 difficulty.

1908 (i) Any health care provider authorized to order an HIV test may disclose AIDS
 1909 confidential information regarding a patient thereof if that disclosure is made to a health
 1910 care provider or health care facility which has provided, is providing, or will provide any
 1911 health care service to that patient and as a result of such provision of service that health
 1912 care provider or facility:

1913 (1) Has personnel or patients who may be persons at risk of being infected with HIV by
 1914 that patient, if that patient is an HIV infected person and such disclosure is reasonably
 1915 necessary to protect any such personnel or patients from that risk; or

1916 (2) Has a legitimate need for that information in order to provide that health care service
 1917 to that patient.

1918 (j) A health care provider or any other person or legal entity authorized but not required
1919 to disclose AIDS confidential information pursuant to this Code section shall have no duty
1920 to make such disclosure and shall not be liable to the patient or any other person or legal
1921 entity for failing to make such disclosure. A health care provider or any other person or
1922 legal entity which discloses information as authorized or required by this Code section or
1923 as authorized or required by law or rules or regulations made pursuant thereto shall have
1924 no civil or criminal liability therefor.

1925 (k) When any person or legal entity is authorized or required by this Code section or any
1926 other law to disclose AIDS confidential information to a person at risk of being infected
1927 with HIV and that person at risk is a minor or incompetent person, such disclosure may be
1928 made to any parent or legal guardian of the minor or incompetent person, to the minor or
1929 incompetent person, or to both the minor or incompetent person and any parent or legal
1930 guardian thereof.

1931 (l) When an institutional care facility is the site at which a person is at risk of being
1932 infected with HIV and as a result of that risk a disclosure of AIDS confidential information
1933 to any person at risk at that site is authorized or required under this Code section or any
1934 other law, such disclosure may be made to the person at risk or to that institutional care
1935 facility's chief administrative or executive officer, or such officer's designee, in which case
1936 that officer or designee shall be authorized to make such disclosure to the person at risk.

1937 (m) When a disclosure of AIDS confidential information is authorized or required by this
1938 Code section to be made to a physician, health care provider, or legal entity, that disclosure
1939 may be made to employees of that physician, health care provider, or legal entity who have
1940 been designated thereby to receive such information on behalf thereof. Those designated
1941 employees may thereafter disclose to and provide for the disclosure of that information
1942 among such other employees of that physician, health care provider, or legal entity, but
1943 such disclosures among those employees shall only be authorized when reasonably
1944 necessary in the ordinary course of business to carry out the purposes for which that
1945 disclosure is authorized or required to be made to that physician, health care provider, or
1946 legal entity.

1947 (n) Any disclosure of AIDS confidential information authorized or required by this Code
1948 section or any other law and any unauthorized disclosure of such information shall in no
1949 way destroy the confidential nature of that information except for the purpose for which
1950 the authorized or required disclosure is made.

1951 (o) Any person or legal entity which violates subsection (b) of this Code section shall be
1952 guilty of a misdemeanor.

1953 (p) Nothing in this Code section or any other law shall be construed to authorize the
1954 disclosure of AIDS confidential information if that disclosure is prohibited by federal law.

1955 or regulations promulgated thereunder, nor shall anything in this Code section or any other
 1956 law be construed to prohibit the disclosure of information which would be AIDS
 1957 confidential information except that such information does not permit the identification of
 1958 any person.

1959 (q) A public safety agency or prosecuting attorney may obtain the results from an HIV test
 1960 to which the person named in the request has submitted under Code Section 15-11-66.1,
 1961 17-10-15, 42-5-52.1, or 42-9-42.1, notwithstanding that the results may be contained in a
 1962 sealed record.

1963 (r) Any person or legal entity required by an order of a court to disclose AIDS confidential
 1964 information in the custody or control of such person or legal entity shall disclose that
 1965 information as required by that order.

1966 (s) AIDS confidential information shall be disclosed as medical information pursuant to
 1967 Code Section 24-12-1 or pursuant to any other law which authorizes or requires the
 1968 disclosure of medical information if:

1969 (1) The person identified by that information:

1970 (A) Has consented in writing to that disclosure; or

1971 (B) Has been notified of the request for disclosure of that information at least ten days
 1972 prior to the time the disclosure is to be made and does not object to such disclosure
 1973 prior to the time specified for that disclosure in that notice; or

1974 (2) A superior court in an in camera hearing finds by clear and convincing evidence a
 1975 compelling need for the information which cannot be accommodated by other means. In
 1976 assessing compelling need, the court shall weigh the public health, safety, or welfare
 1977 needs or any other public or private need for the disclosure against the privacy interest
 1978 of the person identified by the information and the public interest which may be disserved
 1979 by disclosures which may deter voluntary HIV tests. If the court determines that
 1980 disclosure of that information is authorized under this paragraph, the court shall order that
 1981 disclosure and impose appropriate safeguards against any unauthorized disclosure. The
 1982 records of that hearing otherwise shall be under seal.

1983 (t)(1) A superior court of this state may order a person or legal entity to disclose AIDS
 1984 confidential information in its custody or control to:

1985 (A) A prosecutor in connection with a prosecution for the alleged commission of
 1986 reckless conduct under subsection (c) of Code Section 16-5-60;

1987 (B) Any party in a civil proceeding; or

1988 (C) A public safety agency or the Department of Community Health if that agency or
 1989 department has an employee thereof who has, in the course of that employment, come
 1990 in contact with the body fluids of the person identified by the AIDS confidential
 1991 information sought in such a manner reasonably likely to cause that employee to

1992 become an HIV infected person and provided the disclosure is necessary for the health
1993 and safety of that employee,
1994 and, for purposes of this subsection, the term 'petitioner for disclosure' means any person
1995 or legal entity specified in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of this paragraph.
1996 (2) An order may be issued against a person or legal entity responsible for recording,
1997 reporting, or maintaining AIDS confidential information to compel the disclosure of that
1998 information if the petitioner for disclosure demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence
1999 a compelling need for the information which cannot be accommodated by other means.
2000 In assessing compelling need, the court shall weigh the public health, safety, or welfare
2001 needs or any other public or private need for the disclosure against the privacy interest
2002 of the person identified by the information and the public interest which may be disserved
2003 by disclosures which may deter voluntary HIV tests.
2004 (3) A petition seeking disclosure of AIDS confidential information under this subsection
2005 shall substitute a pseudonym for the true name of the person concerning whom the
2006 information is sought. The disclosure to the parties of that person's true name shall be
2007 communicated confidentially, in documents not filed with the court.
2008 (4) Before granting any order under this subsection, the court shall provide the person
2009 concerning whom the information is sought with notice and a reasonable opportunity to
2010 participate in the proceedings if that person is not already a party.
2011 (5) Court proceedings as to disclosure of AIDS confidential information under this
2012 subsection shall be conducted in camera unless the person concerning whom the
2013 information is sought agrees to a hearing in open court.
2014 (6) Upon the issuance of an order that a person or legal entity be required to disclose
2015 AIDS confidential information regarding a person named in that order, that person or
2016 entity so ordered shall disclose to the ordering court any such information which is in the
2017 control or custody of that person or entity and which relates to the person named in the
2018 order for the court to make an in camera inspection thereof. If the court determines from
2019 that inspection that the person named in the order is an HIV infected person, the court
2020 shall disclose to the petitioner for disclosure that determination and shall impose
2021 appropriate safeguards against unauthorized disclosure which shall specify the persons
2022 who may have access to the information, the purposes for which the information shall be
2023 used, and appropriate prohibitions on future disclosure.
2024 (7) The record of the proceedings under this subsection shall be sealed by the court.
2025 (8) An order may not be issued under this subsection against the Department of
2026 Community Health, any county board of health, or any anonymous HIV test site operated
2027 by or on behalf of that department.

2028 (u) A health care provider, health care facility, or other person or legal entity who, in
 2029 violation of this Code section, unintentionally discloses AIDS confidential information,
 2030 notwithstanding the maintenance of procedures thereby which are reasonably adopted to
 2031 avoid risk of such disclosure, shall not be civilly or criminally liable, unless such disclosure
 2032 was due to gross negligence or wanton and willful misconduct.

2033 (v) AIDS confidential information may be disclosed when that disclosure is otherwise
 2034 authorized or required by Code Section 42-1-6, if AIDS or HIV infection is the
 2035 communicable disease at issue, or when that disclosure is otherwise authorized or required
 2036 by any law which specifically refers to 'AIDS confidential information,' 'HIV test results,'
 2037 or any similar language indicating a legislative intent to disclose information specifically
 2038 relating to AIDS or HIV.

2039 (w) A health care provider who has received AIDS confidential information regarding a
 2040 patient from the patient's health care provider directly or indirectly under the provisions of
 2041 subsection (i) of this Code section may disclose that information to a health care provider
 2042 which has provided, is providing, or will provide any health care service to that patient and
 2043 as a result of that provision of service that health care provider:

2044 (1) Has personnel or patients who may be persons at risk of being infected with HIV by
 2045 that patient, if that patient is an HIV infected person and such disclosure is reasonably
 2046 necessary to protect any such personnel or patients from that risk; or

2047 (2) Has a legitimate need for that information in order to provide that health care service
 2048 to that patient.

2049 (x) Neither the Department of Community Health nor any county board of health shall
 2050 disclose AIDS confidential information contained in its records unless such disclosure is
 2051 authorized or required by this Code section or any other law, except that such information
 2052 in those records shall not be a public record and shall not be subject to disclosure through
 2053 subpoena, court order, or other judicial process.

2054 (y) The protection against disclosure provided by Code Section 24-12-20 shall be waived
 2055 and AIDS confidential information may be disclosed to the extent that the person identified
 2056 by such information, his or her heirs, successors, assigns, or a beneficiary of such person,
 2057 including, but not limited to, an executor, administrator, or personal representative of such
 2058 person's estate:

2059 (1) Files a claim or claims other entitlements under any insurance policy or benefit plan
 2060 or is involved in any civil proceeding regarding such claim;

2061 (2) Places such person's care and treatment, the nature and extent of his or her injuries,
 2062 the extent of his or her damages, his or her medical condition, or the reasons for his or her
 2063 death at issue in any judicial proceeding; or

2064 (3) Is involved in a dispute regarding coverage under any insurance policy or benefit
2065 plan.

2066 (z) AIDS confidential information may be collected, used, and disclosed by an insurer in
2067 accordance with the provisions of Chapter 39 of Title 33.

2068 (aa) In connection with any judicial proceeding in which AIDS confidential information
2069 is disclosed as authorized or required by this Code section, the party to whom that
2070 information is thereby disclosed may subpoena any person to authenticate such AIDS
2071 confidential information, establish a chain of custody relating thereto, or otherwise testify
2072 regarding that information, including, but not limited to, testifying regarding any
2073 notifications to the patient regarding results of an HIV test. The provisions of this
2074 subsection shall apply as to records, personnel, or both of the Department of Community
2075 Health or a county board of health notwithstanding Code Section 50-18-72, but only as to
2076 test results obtained by a prosecutor under subsection (q) of this Code section and to be
2077 used thereby in a prosecution for reckless conduct under subsection (c) of Code Section
2078 16-5-60.

2079 (bb) AIDS confidential information may be disclosed as a part of any proceeding or
2080 procedure authorized or required pursuant to Chapter 3, 4, or 7 of Title 37, regarding a
2081 person who is alleged to be or who is mentally ill, developmentally disabled, or alcoholic
2082 or drug dependent, or as a part of any proceeding or procedure authorized or required
2083 pursuant to Title 29, regarding the guardianship of a person or that person's estate, as
2084 follows:

2085 (1) Any person who files or transmits a petition or other document which discloses AIDS
2086 confidential information in connection with any such proceeding or procedure shall
2087 provide a cover page which contains only the type of proceeding or procedure, the court
2088 in which the proceeding or procedure is or will be pending, and the words
2089 'CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION' without in any way otherwise disclosing thereon
2090 the name of any individual or that such petition or other document specifically contains
2091 AIDS confidential information;

2092 (2) AIDS confidential information shall only be disclosed pursuant to this subsection
2093 after disclosure to and with the written consent of the person identified by that
2094 information, or that person's parent or guardian if that person is a minor or has previously
2095 been adjudicated as being incompetent, or by order of court obtained in accordance with
2096 subparagraph (C) of paragraph (3) of this subsection;

2097 (3) If any person files or transmits a petition or other document in connection with any
2098 such proceeding or procedure which discloses AIDS confidential information without
2099 obtaining consent as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the court receiving such

2100 information shall either obtain written consent as set forth in that paragraph (2) for any
2101 further use or disclosure of such information or:

2102 (A) Return such petition or other document to the person who filed or transmitted
2103 same, with directions against further filing or transmittal of such information in
2104 connection with such proceeding or procedure except in compliance with this
2105 subsection;

2106 (B) Delete or expunge all references to such AIDS confidential information from the
2107 particular petition or other document; or

2108 (C)(i) If the court determines there is a compelling need for such information in
2109 connection with the particular proceeding or procedure, petition a superior court of
2110 competent jurisdiction for permission to obtain or disclose that information. If the
2111 person identified by the information is not yet represented by an attorney in the
2112 proceeding or procedure in connection with which the information is sought, the
2113 petitioning court shall appoint an attorney for such person. The petitioning court shall
2114 have both that person and that person's attorney personally served with notice of the
2115 petition and time and place of the superior court hearing thereon. Such hearing shall
2116 not be held sooner than 72 hours after service, unless the information is to be used in
2117 connection with an emergency guardianship proceeding under Code Section 29-4-14,
2118 in which event the hearing shall not be held sooner than 48 hours after service.

2119 (ii) The superior court in which a petition is filed pursuant to division (i) of this
2120 subparagraph shall hold an in camera hearing on such petition. The purpose of the
2121 hearing shall be to determine whether there is clear and convincing evidence of a
2122 compelling need for the AIDS confidential information sought in connection with the
2123 particular proceeding or procedure which cannot be accommodated by other means.
2124 In assessing compelling need, the superior court shall weigh the public health, safety,
2125 or welfare needs or any other public or private need for the disclosure against the
2126 privacy interest of the person identified by the information and the public interest
2127 which may be disserved by disclosures which may deter voluntary HIV tests. If the
2128 court determines that disclosure of that information is authorized under this
2129 subparagraph, the court shall order that disclosure and impose appropriate safeguards
2130 against any unauthorized disclosure. The records of that hearing otherwise shall be
2131 under seal; and

2132 (4) The court having jurisdiction over such proceeding or procedure, when it becomes
2133 apparent that AIDS confidential information will likely be or has been disclosed in
2134 connection with such proceeding or procedure, shall take such measures as the court
2135 determines appropriate to preserve the confidentiality of the disclosed information to the
2136 maximum extent possible. Such measures shall include, without being limited to, closing

2137 the proceeding or procedure to the public and sealing all or any part of the records of the
 2138 proceeding or procedure containing AIDS confidential information. The records of any
 2139 appeals taken from any such proceeding or procedure shall also be sealed. Furthermore,
 2140 the court may consult with and obtain the advice of medical experts or other counsel or
 2141 advisers as to the relevance and materiality of such information in such proceedings or
 2142 procedures, provided that the identity of the person identified by such information is not
 2143 thereby revealed.

2144 ARTICLE 4

2145 24-12-30.

2146 (a) Circulation and similar records of a library which identify the user of library materials
 2147 shall not be public records but shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed except:

2148 (1) To members of the library staff in the ordinary course of business;

2149 (2) Upon written consent of the user of the library materials or the user's parents or
 2150 guardian if the user is a minor or ward; or

2151 (3) Upon appropriate court order or subpoena.

2152 (b) Any disclosure authorized by subsection (a) of this Code section or any unauthorized
 2153 disclosure of materials made confidential by subsection (a) of this Code section shall not
 2154 in any way destroy the confidential nature of that material, except for the purpose for which
 2155 an authorized disclosure is made. A person disclosing material as authorized by subsection
 2156 (a) of this Code section shall not be liable therefor.

2157 24-12-31.

2158 No veterinarian licensed under Chapter 50 of Title 43 shall be required to disclose any
 2159 information concerning the veterinarian's care of an animal except on written authorization
 2160 or other waiver by the veterinarian's client or on appropriate court order or subpoena. Any
 2161 veterinarian releasing information under written authorization or other waiver by the client
 2162 or under court order or subpoena shall not be liable to the client or any other person. The
 2163 confidentiality provided by this Code section shall be waived to the extent that the
 2164 veterinarian's client places the veterinarian's care and treatment of the animal or the nature
 2165 and extent of injuries to the animal at issue in any judicial proceeding. As used in this
 2166 Code section, the term 'client' means the owner of the animal; or if the owner of the animal
 2167 is unknown, client means the person who presents the animal to the veterinarian for care
 2168 and treatment.

CHAPTER 13ARTICLE 1

2171 24-13-1.

2172 A witness shall not be arrested on any civil process while attending any court to which he
2173 or she is subpoenaed or otherwise required to attend as a witness or while going to or
2174 returning from such court. An officer who holds such witness imprisoned after seeing his
2175 or her subpoena or being satisfied of the fact that such person was a witness shall be liable
2176 for false imprisonment.

2177 24-13-2.

2178 A witness in making a claim or proof of a claim for witness fees for attendance shall
2179 indicate the date on which he or she attended and, in the event of a continuance, shall not
2180 claim or receive witness fees for any day after the date to which the docket shows the
2181 proceeding was continued nor for any day before the continuance was granted on which
2182 he or she did not attend.

2183 24-13-3.

2184 (a) A witness shall not receive any witness fees for attendance on a subpoena if such
2185 witness is absent from the proceeding, or if the proceeding is continued at any time due to
2186 his or her absence, where such absence did not arise from providential cause.

2187 (b) No witness shall receive witness fees from both parties in the same proceeding; the
2188 fees of a witness for both parties shall be apportioned equally between the parties unless
2189 the costs are all taxed against one party.

2190 24-13-4.

2191 A witness who claims more than is due to such witness shall forfeit all witness fees and
2192 shall pay to the injured party, in addition thereto, four times the amount so unjustly
2193 claimed.

2194 24-13-5.

2195 When any person is served with a subpoena for the production of evidence or a notice to
2196 produce, seeking books in his or her possession to be used as testimony on the trial of any
2197 cause, if the person makes oath that he or she cannot produce the books required without
2198 suffering a material injury in his or her business and also makes or causes to be made out
2199 a full transcript from the books of all the accounts and dealings with the opposite party, has
2200 the transcript examined and sworn to by an impartial witness, and produces the same in

2201 court, the witness shall be deemed to have complied with the notice to produce or subpoena
2202 for the production of evidence.

2203 24-13-6.

2204 When the transcript provided for in Code Section 24-13-5 is produced in court, if the
2205 adverse party is dissatisfied therewith and swears that he or she believes that the books
2206 contain entries material to the adverse party which do not appear in the transcript, the court
2207 shall grant him or her a commission directed to certain persons named by the parties and
2208 approved by the court. The commission shall cause the person with possession of the
2209 books to produce the books required with the person swearing that the books produced are
2210 all that he or she has or had that answer to the description in the subpoena or notice to
2211 produce. The commission shall examine the books and transmit to the court a full and fair
2212 statement of the accounts and entries between the parties under their hand. When received
2213 by the court, the statement of the commission shall be deemed a compliance with the notice
2214 to produce or subpoena for the production of evidence.

2215 24-13-7.

2216 Parties interested and participating in the trial of all cases tried in the courts are authorized
2217 and empowered, on the order of the court trying the case, to withdraw from the court and
2218 record of the case all original deeds, maps, blueprints, notes, papers, and documents
2219 belonging to the parties and which are introduced in evidence on the trial, on substituting
2220 therefor, when required by the court, duplicates thereof, verified as such by the parties or
2221 their agents, representatives, or attorneys. However, if any such deeds, maps, blueprints,
2222 notes, papers, or documents shall be attacked by any party to the case as forgeries, or as not
2223 being genuine originals, it shall be in the discretion of the court to require the original
2224 deeds, maps, blueprints, notes, papers, or documents so attacked to remain on file in the
2225 court as a part of the record in the case.

2226 ARTICLE 2

2227 24-13-20.

2228 This article shall apply to all civil proceedings and, insofar as consistent with the
2229 Constitution, to all criminal proceedings.

2230 24-13-21.

2231 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'subpoena' includes a witness subpoena and a
2232 subpoena for the production of evidence.

2233 (b) A subpoena shall state the name of the court, the name of the clerk, and the title of the
 2234 proceeding and shall command each person to whom it is directed to attend and give
 2235 testimony or produce evidence at a time and place specified by the subpoena.

2236 (c) The clerk of court shall make subpoenas in blank available on demand by electronic
 2237 or other means to parties or their counsel or to the grand jury.

2238 (d) An attorney who is counsel of record in a proceeding may issue and sign a subpoena
 2239 obtained by electronic or other means from the clerk of court as an officer of a court for
 2240 any deposition, hearing, or trial held in conjunction with such proceeding.

2241 (e) A district attorney may issue, and upon the request of the grand jury shall issue, a
 2242 subpoena in grand jury proceedings.

2243 (f) A subpoena shall be completed prior to being served.

2244 (g) Subpoenas are enforceable as provided in Code Section 24-13-26.

2245 (h) If an individual misuses a subpoena, he or she shall be subject to punishment for
 2246 contempt of court and shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$300.00 or not more
 2247 than 20 days imprisonment, or both.

2248 24-13-22.

2249 At the request of any party, subpoenas for attendance at a hearing or trial shall be issued
 2250 under the authority of the clerk of the court in which the hearing or trial is held. A
 2251 subpoena requiring the attendance of a witness at a hearing or trial may be served at any
 2252 place within this state.

2253 24-13-23.

2254 (a) A subpoena may also command the person to whom it is directed to produce the
 2255 evidence designated therein.

2256 (b) The court, upon written motion made promptly and in any event at or before the time
 2257 specified in the subpoena for compliance therewith, may:

2258 (1) Quash or modify the subpoena if it is unreasonable and oppressive; or

2259 (2) Condition denial of the motion upon the advancement by the person in whose behalf
 2260 the subpoena is issued of the reasonable cost of producing the evidence.

2261 24-13-24.

2262 A subpoena may be served by any sheriff, by his or her deputy, or by any other person not
 2263 less than 18 years of age. Proof may be shown by return or certificate endorsed on a copy
 2264 of the subpoena. Subpoenas may also be served by registered or certified mail or statutory
 2265 overnight delivery, and the return receipt shall constitute prima-facie proof of service.
 2266 Service upon a party may be made by serving his or her counsel of record.

2267 24-13-25.

2268 Except as provided in Code Section 24-13-28, the witness fee shall be \$25.00 per diem, and
2269 execution shall be issued by the clerk upon affidavit of the witness to enforce payment
2270 thereof. The payment of witness fees shall not be demanded as a condition precedent to
2271 attendance; but, when a witness resides outside the county where the testimony is to be
2272 given, service of the subpoena, to be valid, shall be accompanied by tender of the witness
2273 fee for one day's attendance plus mileage of 45¢ per mile for traveling expenses for going
2274 from and returning to his or her place of residence by the nearest practical route. Tender
2275 of witness fees and mileage may be made by United States currency, postal money order,
2276 cashier's check, certified check, or the check of an attorney or law firm. When the
2277 subpoena is issued on behalf of this state, or an officer, agency, or political subdivision
2278 thereof, or an accused in a criminal proceeding, witness fees and mileage need not be
2279 tendered.

2280 24-13-26.

2281 (a) Subpoenas may be enforced by attachment for contempt and by a fine of not more than
2282 \$300.00 or not more than 20 days imprisonment, or both. In all proceedings under this
2283 Code section, the court shall consider whether under the circumstances of each proceeding
2284 the subpoena was served within a reasonable time, but in any event not less than 24 hours
2285 prior to the time that appearance thereunder was required.

2286 (b) The court may also in appropriate proceedings grant continuance of the proceeding.
2287 Where subpoenas were issued in blank, no continuance shall be granted because of failure
2288 to respond thereto when the party obtaining such subpoenas fails to present to the clerk the
2289 name and address of the witness so subpoenaed at least six hours before appearance is
2290 required.

2291 (c) When evidence is unsuccessfully sought, secondary evidence thereof shall be
2292 admissible.

2293 24-13-27.

2294 Where a party desires to compel production of evidence in the possession, custody, or
2295 control of another party, in lieu of serving a subpoena under this article, the party desiring
2296 the production may serve a notice to produce upon counsel for the other party. Service
2297 may be perfected in accordance with Code Section 24-13-24, but no witness fees or
2298 mileage shall be allowed therefor. Such notices may be enforced in the manner prescribed
2299 by Code Section 24-13-26, and Code Section 24-13-23 shall also apply to such notices.
2300 The notice shall be in writing, signed by the party seeking production of the evidence, or
2301 the party's attorney, and shall be directed to the opposite party or his or her attorney.

2302 24-13-28.

2303 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

2304 (1) 'Director' means the appropriate chief of police, sheriff, director of public safety of
 2305 a college or university, local fire chief, director of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation,
 2306 the commanding officer of the Georgia State Patrol, the commissioner of natural
 2307 resources, the superintendent of a correctional institution, or the state fire marshal.

2308 (2) 'Law enforcement officer' means any member of a municipal or county police force,
 2309 any deputy sheriff, any campus policeman as defined in Code Section 20-8-1, any
 2310 member of a local fire department, any member of the Georgia State Patrol or Georgia
 2311 Bureau of Investigation, any correctional officer, any person employed by the
 2312 Department of Natural Resources as a law enforcement officer, or any arson investigator
 2313 of the state fire marshal's office.

2314 (3) 'Regular duty hours' means the daily shift of duty to which a law enforcement officer
 2315 is assigned and shall not include paid or unpaid vacation, paid or unpaid sick leave, paid
 2316 or unpaid holiday leave, or any other paid or unpaid leave status established pursuant to
 2317 the personnel regulations or scheduling practices of the employing agency.

2318 (b) Any law enforcement officer who shall be required by subpoena to attend any superior
 2319 court, other courts having jurisdiction to enforce the penal laws of this state, municipal
 2320 court having jurisdiction to enforce the penal laws of this state as provided by Code Section
 2321 40-13-21, juvenile court, grand jury, hearing or inquest held or called by a coroner, or
 2322 magistrate court involving any criminal matter, as a witness on behalf of the state during
 2323 any hours except the regular duty hours to which the officer is assigned, shall be paid for
 2324 such attendance at a fixed rate to be established by the governing authority, but not less
 2325 than \$25.00 per diem. The claim for the witness fees shall be endorsed on the subpoena
 2326 showing the dates of attendance and stating that attendance was required during the hours
 2327 other than the regular duty hours to which the claimant was assigned. The claimant shall
 2328 verify this statement. The dates of attendance shall be certified by the judge or the
 2329 prosecuting attorney of the court attended. The director or his or her designee shall certify
 2330 that the claimant has not received any overtime pay for his or her attendance and that his
 2331 or her attendance was required during hours other than regular duty hours. The amount due
 2332 shall be paid by the governing body authorized to dispense public funds for the operation
 2333 of the court. However, no such law enforcement officer shall claim or receive more than
 2334 one witness fee per day for attendance in any court or before the grand jury regardless of
 2335 the number of subpoenas which the law enforcement officer may have received requiring
 2336 such officer to appear in such court or before the grand jury on any one day.

2337 (c)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, any law enforcement
 2338 officer who shall be required by subpoena to attend any court of this state with respect

2339 to any civil proceeding, as a witness concerning any matter relative to the law
 2340 enforcement duties of such law enforcement officer during any hours except the regular
 2341 duty hours to which the law enforcement officer is assigned, shall be paid for such
 2342 attendance at a fixed rate to be established by the governing authority, but not less than
 2343 \$25.00 per diem. Any such law enforcement officer shall also be entitled to the mileage
 2344 allowance provided in Code Section 24-13-25 when such law enforcement officer resides
 2345 outside the county where the testimony is to be given. The claim for the witness fees
 2346 shall be endorsed on the subpoena showing the dates of attendance and stating that
 2347 attendance was required during the hours other than the regular duty hours to which the
 2348 claimant was assigned. The claimant shall verify such statement. The dates of
 2349 attendance shall be certified by the party obtaining the subpoena. The director or his or
 2350 her designee shall certify that the claimant has not received any overtime pay for the law
 2351 enforcement officer's attendance and that such law enforcement officer's attendance was
 2352 required during hours other than regular duty hours.

2353 (2) Any law enforcement officer covered by paragraph (1) of this subsection who is
 2354 required by subpoena to attend any court with respect to any civil proceeding, as a
 2355 witness concerning any matter which is not related to the duties of such law enforcement
 2356 officer, shall be compensated as provided in Code Section 24-13-25.

2357 (d) The fee specified by subsections (b) and (c) of this Code section shall not be paid if the
 2358 law enforcement officer receives any overtime pay for time spent attending such court
 2359 pursuant to the subpoena.

2360 24-13-29.

2361 No member of the General Assembly of Georgia shall be compelled to attend and give
 2362 testimony at any hearing or trial or to produce evidence while the General Assembly is in
 2363 regular or extraordinary session.

2364 ARTICLE 3

2365 24-13-60.

2366 (a) When a prisoner confined in any state prison, county correctional institution, or other
 2367 penal institution under the jurisdiction of the Board of Corrections, other than a prisoner
 2368 under a death sentence, is needed as a witness in any judicial proceeding in any court of
 2369 record in this state or when it is desired that such person stand trial on an indictment or
 2370 accusation charging the prisoner with commission of a felony or misdemeanor, the judge
 2371 of the court wherein the proceeding is pending shall be authorized to and shall issue an ex
 2372 parte order, directed to the commissioner of corrections, requiring the prisoner's delivery

2373 to the sheriff of the county where the prisoner is desired as a witness or accused. The
2374 sheriff or his or her deputies shall take custody of the prisoner on the date named in the
2375 order, safely keep the prisoner pending the proceeding, and return him or her to the original
2376 place of detention after the prisoner's discharge by the trial judge.

2377 (b) If the prisoner was desired as a witness by this state in a criminal proceeding or if the
2378 prisoner's release to the sheriff was for the purpose of standing trial on criminal charges,
2379 the county wherein the proceeding was pending shall pay all expenses of transportation and
2380 keeping, including per diem and mileage of the sheriff, jail fees, and any other proper
2381 expense approved by the trial judge.

2382 (c) If the prisoner was desired as a witness by the accused in a criminal proceeding or by
2383 either party to a civil proceeding, the costs and expenses referred to in subsection (b) of this
2384 Code section shall be borne by the party requesting the prisoner as a witness. The court
2385 shall require a deposit of money sufficient to defray same, except where the judge, after
2386 examining into the matter, determines that the prisoner's presence is required by the
2387 interests of justice and that the party requesting it is financially unable to make the deposit,
2388 in which case the expenses shall be taxed as costs of court.

2389 (d) If a prisoner under a death sentence is needed as a witness for either the prosecution
2390 or the defense in any felony case, the requesting party may interview the proposed witness.
2391 Following such interview, the requesting party may move for a writ of habeas corpus ad
2392 testificandum. Such motion shall be accompanied by a proffer of the testimony of the
2393 proposed witness. The requesting party shall make such motion and proffer as soon as
2394 possible but shall not make such motion later than 20 days prior to the date of the trial.
2395 Nothing in this Code section shall limit the right of a party from presenting a material
2396 witness at a hearing or trial and to have compulsory process for that purpose.

2397 24-13-61.

2398 Any judge of the superior court may issue an order to any officer having a lawfully
2399 imprisoned person in his or her custody, requiring the production of such person before the
2400 court for the purpose of giving evidence in any criminal cause pending therein, without any
2401 formal application or writ of habeas corpus ad testificandum for that purpose.

2402 24-13-62.

2403 The writ of habeas corpus ad testificandum may be issued by the superior court to cause
2404 the production in court of any witness under legal imprisonment.

2405

ARTICLE 42406 24-13-90.

2407 This article shall be known and may be cited as "The Uniform Act to Secure the Attendance
 2408 of Witnesses from Without the State.'

2409 24-13-91.2410 As used in this article, the term:

2411 (1) 'Penal institution' means a jail, prison, penitentiary, house of correction, or other
 2412 place of penal detention.

2413 (2) 'State' means any state or territory of the United States and the District of Columbia.

2414 (3) 'Summons' means a subpoena, order, or other notice requiring the appearance of a
 2415 witness.

2416 (4) 'Witness' means a person whose testimony is desired in any proceeding or
 2417 investigation by a grand jury or in a criminal prosecution or proceeding held by the
 2418 prosecution or the defense, including a person who is confined in a penal institution in
 2419 any state.

2420 24-13-92.

2421 (a) If a judge of a court of record in any state which by its laws has made provision for
 2422 commanding persons within that state to attend and testify in this state certifies under the
 2423 seal of such court that there is a criminal prosecution pending in such court or that a grand
 2424 jury investigation has commenced or is about to commence, that a person within this state
 2425 is a material witness in such prosecution or grand jury investigation, and that the witness's
 2426 presence will be required for a specified number of days, upon presentation of such
 2427 certificate to any judge of a court of record in the county in which the person is found, such
 2428 judge shall fix a time and place for a hearing and shall make an order directing the witness
 2429 to appear at a time and place certain for the hearing. The witness shall at all times be
 2430 entitled to counsel.

2431 (b) If at a hearing the judge determines that the witness is material and necessary, that it
 2432 will not cause undue hardship to the witness to be compelled to attend and testify in the
 2433 prosecution or a grand jury investigation in the other state, and the laws of the state in
 2434 which the prosecution is pending or grand jury investigation has commenced or is about
 2435 to commence will give to such witness protection from arrest and the service of civil and
 2436 criminal process, the judge shall issue a summons, with a copy of the certificate attached,
 2437 directing the witness to attend and testify in the court where the prosecution is pending or
 2438 where a grand jury investigation has commenced or is about to commence at a time and

2439 place specified in the summons. In any such hearing, the certificate shall be prima-facie
2440 evidence of all the facts stated therein.

2441 (c) If such certificate recommends that the witness be taken into immediate custody and
2442 delivered to an officer of the requesting state to assure the witness's attendance in the
2443 requesting state, such judge may, in lieu of notification of the hearing, direct that the
2444 witness be forthwith brought before him or her for the hearing; and the judge at the hearing
2445 being satisfied of the desirability of such custody and delivery, for which determination the
2446 certificate shall be prima-facie proof of such desirability, may, in lieu of issuing subpoena
2447 or summons, order that the witness be forthwith taken into custody and delivered to an
2448 officer of the requesting state.

2449 (d) If the witness, who is summoned as above provided, after being paid or tendered by
2450 some properly authorized person the sum of 45¢ a mile for each mile by the ordinarily
2451 traveled route to and from the court where the prosecution is pending and \$25.00 for each
2452 day that the witness is required to travel and attend as a witness, fails without good cause
2453 to attend and testify as directed in the summons, the witness shall be punished in the
2454 manner provided for in Code Section 24-13-26.

2455 24-13-93.

2456 (a) A judge of a state court of record in another state which by its laws has made provision
2457 for commanding persons confined in penal institutions within that state to attend and testify
2458 in this state may certify that there is a criminal proceeding or investigation by a grand jury
2459 or a criminal proceeding pending in the court, that a person who is confined in a penal
2460 institution in this state is a material witness in the proceeding or investigation, and that the
2461 witness's presence will be required during a specified time. Upon presentation of the
2462 certificate to any judge having jurisdiction over the person confined and upon notice to the
2463 Attorney General, the judge in this state shall fix a time and place for a hearing and shall
2464 make an order directed to the person having custody of the prisoner requiring that the
2465 prisoner be produced before him or her at the hearing.

2466 (b) If at the hearing the judge determines that the witness is material and necessary, that
2467 the witness attending and testifying are not adverse to the interest of this state or to the
2468 health and legal rights of the witness, that the laws of the state in which the witness is
2469 required to testify will give the witness protection from arrest and the service of civil and
2470 criminal process because of any act committed prior to the witness's arrival in the state
2471 under the order, and that as a practical matter the possibility is negligible that the witness
2472 may be subject to arrest or to the service of civil or criminal process in any state through
2473 which the witness will be required to pass, the judge shall issue an order, with a copy of the
2474 certificate attached, directing the witness to attend and testify, directing the person having

2475 custody of the witness to produce the witness in the court where the criminal proceeding
2476 is pending or where the grand jury investigation is pending at a time and place specified
2477 in the order, and prescribing such conditions as the judge shall determine. The judge, in
2478 lieu of directing the person having custody of the witness to produce the witness in the
2479 requesting jurisdiction's court, may direct and require in the court's order that the requesting
2480 jurisdiction shall come to the Georgia penal institution in which the witness is confined to
2481 accept custody of the witness for physical transfer to the requesting jurisdiction; that the
2482 requesting jurisdiction shall provide proper safeguards on the witness's custody while in
2483 transit; that the requesting jurisdiction shall be liable for and shall pay all expenses incurred
2484 in producing and returning the witness, including, but not limited to, food, lodging,
2485 clothing, and medical care; and that the requesting jurisdiction shall promptly deliver the
2486 witness back to the same or another Georgia penal institution as specified by the
2487 Department of Corrections at the conclusion of his or her testimony.

2488 (c) The order to the witness and to the person having custody of the witness shall provide
2489 for the return of the witness at the conclusion of his or her testimony, proper safeguards on
2490 his or her custody, and proper financial reimbursement or prepayment by the requesting
2491 jurisdiction of all expenses incurred in the production and return of the witness and may
2492 prescribe such other conditions as the judge thinks proper or necessary. If the judge directs
2493 and requires the requesting jurisdiction to accept custody of the witness at the Georgia
2494 penal institution in which the witness is confined and to deliver the witness back to the
2495 same or another Georgia penal institution at the conclusion of the witness's testimony, no
2496 prepayment of expenses shall be necessary. The order shall not become effective until the
2497 judge of the state requesting the witness enters an order directing compliance with the
2498 conditions prescribed.

2499 (d) This Code section shall not apply to any person in this state confined as insane or
2500 mentally ill or under sentence of death.

2501 24-13-94.

2502 (a) If a person in any state which by its laws has made provision for commanding persons
2503 within its borders to attend and testify in criminal prosecutions or grand jury investigations
2504 commenced or about to commence in this state is a material witness in a prosecution
2505 pending in a court of record in this state or in a grand jury investigation which has
2506 commenced or is about to commence a judge of such court may issue a certificate under
2507 the seal of the court stating these facts and specifying the number of days the witness will
2508 be required. The certificate may include a recommendation that the witness be taken into
2509 immediate custody and delivered to an officer of this state to assure attendance in this state.

2510 This certificate shall be presented to a judge of a court of record in the county in which the
2511 witness is found.

2512 (b) If the witness is summoned to attend and testify in this state, the witness shall be
2513 tendered the sum of 45¢ a mile for each mile by the ordinarily traveled route to and from
2514 the court where the prosecution is pending and \$25.00 for each day that the witness is
2515 required to travel and attend as a witness. A witness who has appeared in accordance with
2516 the provisions of the summons shall not be required to remain within this state for a longer
2517 period of time than the period mentioned in the certificate, unless otherwise ordered by the
2518 court. If such witness, after coming into this state, fails without good cause to attend and
2519 testify as directed in the summons, the witness shall be punished in the manner provided
2520 for in Code Section 24-13-26.

2521 24-13-95.

2522 (a) If a person confined in a penal institution in any other state is a material witness in a
2523 criminal proceeding pending in a court of record or in a grand jury investigation in this
2524 state, a judge of the court may certify that there is a criminal proceeding or investigation
2525 by a grand jury or a criminal proceeding pending in the court, that a person who is confined
2526 in a penal institution in the other state is a material witness in the proceeding or
2527 investigation, and that the witness's presence will be required during a specified time. The
2528 certificate shall be presented to a judge of a court of record in the other state having
2529 jurisdiction over the confined prisoner, and a notice shall be given to the attorney general
2530 of the state in which the prisoner is confined.

2531 (b) The judge of the court in this state may enter an order directing compliance with the
2532 terms and conditions prescribed by the judge of the state in which the witness is confined.

2533 24-13-96.

2534 (a) If a person comes into this state in obedience to a summons directing him or her to
2535 attend and testify in this state, such person shall not while in this state pursuant to such
2536 summons be subject to arrest or the service of process, civil or criminal, in connection with
2537 matters which arose before such person's entrance into this state under the summons.

2538 (b) If a person passes through this state while going to another state in obedience to a
2539 summons to attend and testify in that state or while returning therefrom, he or she shall not
2540 while so passing through this state be subject to arrest or the service of process, civil or
2541 criminal, in connection with matters which arose before such person's entrance into this
2542 state under the summons.

2543 24-13-97.

2544 This article shall be interpreted and construed so as to effectuate its general purpose to
 2545 make uniform the laws of the states which enact it and shall be applicable only to such
 2546 states as shall enact reciprocal powers to this state relative to the matter of securing
 2547 attendance of witnesses as provided in this article.

2548 ARTICLE 5

2549 24-13-110.

2550 This article shall be known and may be cited as the 'Uniform Foreign Depositions Act.'

2551 24-13-111.

2552 Whenever any mandate, writ, or commission is issued out of any court of record in any
 2553 other state, territory, district, or foreign jurisdiction, or whenever upon notice or agreement
 2554 such court of record is required to take the testimony of a witness in this state, such witness
 2555 may be compelled to appear and testify in the same manner and by the same process and
 2556 proceeding as may be employed for the purpose of taking testimony in proceedings
 2557 pending in this state.

2558 24-13-112.

2559 This article shall be interpreted and construed so as to effectuate its general purposes to
 2560 make uniform the laws of those states which enact it.

2561 ARTICLE 6

2562 24-13-130.

2563 (a)(1) At any time after an accused has been charged with an offense against the laws of
 2564 this state or an ordinance of any political subdivision or authority thereof, upon motion
 2565 of the state or the accused, the court having jurisdiction to try the offense charged may,
 2566 after notice to the parties, order that the testimony of a prospective material witness of a
 2567 party be taken by deposition and that any designated evidence not privileged be produced
 2568 at the same time and place.

2569 (2) At any time after an accused has been charged with an offense of child molestation,
 2570 aggravated child molestation, or physical or sexual abuse of a child, upon motion of the
 2571 state or the accused, the court having jurisdiction to try the offense charged may, after
 2572 notice to the parties, order that the testimony of any physician whose testimony is

2573 relevant to such charge be taken by deposition and that any designated evidence not
2574 privileged be produced at the same time and place.

2575 (b) The court shall not order the taking of the witness's testimony, except as provided in
2576 paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of this Code section, unless it appears to the satisfaction of
2577 the court that the testimony of the witness is material to the proceeding and the witness:

2578 (1) Is in imminent danger of death;

2579 (2) Has been threatened with death or great bodily harm because of the witness's status
2580 as a potential witness in a criminal trial or proceeding;

2581 (3) Is about to leave this state and there are reasonable grounds to believe that such
2582 witness will be unable to attend the trial;

2583 (4) Is so sick or infirm as to afford reasonable grounds to believe that such witness will
2584 be unable to attend the trial; or

2585 (5) Is being detained as a material witness and there are reasonable grounds to believe
2586 that the witness will flee if released from detention.

2587 (c) A motion to take a deposition of a material witness, or a physician as provided in
2588 paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of this Code section, shall be verified and shall state:

2589 (1) The nature of the offense charged;

2590 (2) The status of the criminal proceedings;

2591 (3) The name of the witness and an address in Georgia where the witness may be
2592 contacted;

2593 (4) That the testimony of the witness is material to the proceeding or that the witness is
2594 a physician as provided in paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of this Code section; and

2595 (5) The basis for taking the deposition as provided in subsection (b) of this Code section.

2596 (d) A motion to take a deposition shall be filed in the court having jurisdiction to try the
2597 accused for the offense charged; provided, however, that if the accused is charged with
2598 multiple offenses, only the court having jurisdiction to try the most serious charge against
2599 the accused shall have jurisdiction to hear and decide the motion to take a deposition.

2600 (e) The party moving the court for an order pursuant to this Code section shall give not
2601 less than one day's notice of the hearing to the opposite party. A copy of the motion shall
2602 be sent to the opposing party or his or her counsel by any means which will reasonably
2603 ensure timely delivery, including transmission by facsimile or by digital or electronic
2604 means. A copy of the notice shall be attached to the motion and filed with the clerk of
2605 court.

2606 (f) If the court is satisfied that the examination of the witness is authorized by law and
2607 necessary, the court shall enter an order setting a time period of not more than 30 days
2608 during which the deposition shall be taken.

2609 (g) On motion of either party, the court may designate a judge who shall be available to
2610 rule on any objections to the interrogation of the witness or before whom the deposition
2611 shall be taken. The judge so designated may be a judge of any court of this state who is
2612 otherwise qualified to preside over the trial of criminal proceedings in the court having
2613 jurisdiction over the offense charged.

2614 24-13-131.

2615 (a) The party at whose instance a deposition is to be taken shall give to every party
2616 reasonable written notice of the time and place for taking the deposition. The notice shall
2617 state the name and address of each person to be examined.

2618 (b) On motion of a party upon whom the notice is served, the court for cause shown may
2619 extend or shorten the time or change the place for taking the deposition.

2620 (c) The officer having custody of an accused shall be notified of the time and place set for
2621 the examination and shall, unless the accused waives in writing the right to be present,
2622 produce the accused at the examination and keep the accused in the presence of the witness
2623 during the examination unless, after being warned by the judge that disruptive conduct will
2624 cause the accused's removal from the place where the deposition is being taken, the accused
2625 persists in conduct which would justify exclusion from that place.

2626 (d) An accused not in custody shall have the right to be present at the examination; but
2627 failure of the accused to appear, absent good cause shown, after notice and tender of
2628 expenses, shall constitute a waiver of that right and of any objection to the taking and use
2629 of the deposition based upon that right.

2630 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (c) and (d) of this Code section, if the
2631 witness is a child, the court may order that the deposition be taken in accordance with Code
2632 Section 17-8-55.

2633 24-13-132.

2634 (a) If an accused is financially unable to employ counsel, the court shall appoint counsel
2635 as provided in Chapter 12 of Title 17, unless the accused elects to proceed without counsel.

2636 (b) Whenever a deposition is taken at the instance of the state, the cost of any such
2637 deposition shall be paid by the state by the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of the State of
2638 Georgia out of such funds as may be appropriated for the operations of the district
2639 attorneys.

2640 (c) Depositions taken at the instance of an accused shall be paid for by the accused;
2641 provided, however, that, whenever a deposition is taken at the instance of an accused who
2642 is eligible for the appointment of counsel as provided in Chapter 12 of Title 17, the court
2643 shall direct that the reasonable expenses for the taking of the deposition and of travel and

2644 subsistence of the accused and the accused's attorney for attendance at the examination, not
2645 to exceed the limits established pursuant to Article 2 of Chapter 7 of Title 45, be paid for
2646 out of the fine and forfeiture fund of the county where venue is laid.

2647 24-13-133.

2648 Except as provided in Code Section 24-13-137, a deposition shall be taken and filed in the
2649 manner provided in civil proceedings, provided that (1) in no event shall a deposition be
2650 taken of an accused party without his or her consent and (2) the scope of examination and
2651 cross-examination shall be such as would be allowed in the trial itself. On request or
2652 waiver by the accused, the court may direct that a deposition be taken on written
2653 interrogatories in the manner provided in civil proceedings. Such request shall constitute
2654 a waiver by the accused of any objection to the taking and use of the deposition based upon
2655 its being so taken. If a judge has been designated to rule on objections or to preside over
2656 the deposition, objections to interrogation of the witness shall be made to and ruled on by
2657 such judge in the same manner as at the trial of a criminal proceeding.

2658 24-13-134.

2659 The state or the accused shall make available to each other, for examination and use at the
2660 taking of a deposition pursuant to this article, any statement of the witness being deposed
2661 which is in the possession of the state or the accused and which would be required to be
2662 made available if the witness were testifying at the trial.

2663 24-13-135.

2664 At the trial or upon any hearing, a part or all of a deposition, so far as otherwise admissible
2665 under the rules of evidence, may be used if the witness is unavailable. Any deposition may
2666 also be used by any party for the purpose of contradicting or impeaching the testimony of
2667 the deponent as a witness. If only a part of a deposition is offered in evidence by a party,
2668 an adverse party may require the offering of all of it which is relevant to the part offered,
2669 and any party may offer other parts. A witness is not unavailable if the exemption, refusal
2670 to testify, claim of lack of memory, inability, or absence of such witness is due to the
2671 procurement or wrongdoing of the party offering the deposition at the hearing or trial for
2672 the purpose of preventing the witness from attending or testifying.

2673 24-13-136.

2674 Objections to receiving in evidence a deposition or part thereof may be made as provided
2675 in civil proceedings.

2676 24-13-137.

2677 (a) Any party shall have the right to require that the deposition be recorded and preserved
2678 by the use of audio-visual equipment in addition to a stenographic record. The audio-visual
2679 recording shall be transmitted to the clerk of the court which ordered the deposition and
2680 shall be made available for viewing and copying only to the prosecuting attorney and
2681 accused's attorney prior to trial. An audio-visual recording made pursuant to this Code
2682 section shall not be available for inspection or copying by the public until such audio-visual
2683 recording has been admitted into evidence during a trial or hearing in the case in which
2684 such deposition is made.

2685 (b) An audio-visual recording made pursuant to this Code section may be admissible at a
2686 trial or hearing as an alternative to the stenographic record of the deposition.

2687 (c) A stenographic record of the deposition contemplated in this Code section shall be
2688 made pursuant to Code Section 9-11-28.

2689 24-13-138.

2690 Nothing in this article shall preclude the taking of a deposition, orally or upon written
2691 questions, or the use of a deposition by agreement of the parties with the consent of the
2692 court.

2693 24-13-139.

2694 It is the intent of the General Assembly that depositions shall be taken in criminal
2695 proceedings only in exceptional circumstances when it is in the interests of justice that the
2696 testimony of a prospective witness be taken and preserved for use at trial. If the court finds
2697 that any party or counsel for a party is using the procedures set forth in this article for the
2698 purpose of harassment or delay, such conduct may be punished as contempt of court.

2699 ARTICLE 7

2700 24-13-150.

2701 Superior courts may entertain proceedings for the perpetuation of testimony in all
2702 proceedings in which the fact to which the testimony relates cannot immediately be made
2703 the subject of investigation at law and in which, for any cause, the common-law proceeding
2704 authorized under this title is not as available, or as completely available, as a proceeding
2705 in equity.

2706 24-13-151.

2707 A petition for discovery merely or to perpetuate testimony shall not be sustained unless
2708 some reason is shown why the usual proceeding at law is inadequate.

2709 24-13-152.

2710 The possession of the property is immaterial; nor shall the proceeding be denied though all
2711 parties in interest cannot be ascertained or reached.

2712 24-13-153.

2713 Testimony taken in the proceedings contemplated under Code Section 24-13-150 shall be
2714 used only from the necessity of the case, but in such case may be used against all persons,
2715 whether parties to the proceeding or not.

2716 24-13-154.

2717 The complainant shall in all cases be taxed with the costs of proceedings to perpetuate
2718 testimony.

2719 CHAPTER 14

2720 ARTICLE 1

2721 24-14-1.

2722 The burden of proof generally lies upon the party who is asserting or affirming a fact and
2723 to the existence of whose case or defense the proof of such fact is essential. If a negation
2724 or negative affirmation is essential to a party's case or defense, the proof of such negation
2725 or negative affirmation shall lie on the party so affirming it.

2726 24-14-2.

2727 What amount of evidence will change the onus or burden of proof shall be a question to be
2728 decided in each case by the sound discretion of the court.

2729 24-14-3.

2730 Moral and reasonable certainty is all that can be expected in legal investigation. Except as
2731 provided in Code Section 51-1-29.5 or Code Section 51-12-5.1, in all civil proceedings, a
2732 preponderance of evidence shall be considered sufficient to produce mental conviction.
2733 In criminal proceedings, a greater strength of mental conviction shall be held necessary to
2734 justify a verdict of guilty.

2735 24-14-4.

2736 In determining where the preponderance of evidence lies, the jury may consider all the
2737 facts and circumstances of the case, the witnesses' manner of testifying, their intelligence,
2738 their means and opportunity for knowing the facts to which they testified, the nature of the
2739 facts to which they testified, the probability or improbability of their testimony, their
2740 interest or want of interest, and their personal credibility so far as the same may
2741 legitimately appear from the trial. The jury may also consider the number of the witnesses,
2742 though the preponderance is not necessarily with the greater number.

2743 24-14-5.

2744 Whether dependent upon direct or circumstantial evidence, the true question in criminal
2745 cases is not whether it is possible that the conclusion at which the evidence points may be
2746 false, but whether there is sufficient evidence to satisfy the mind and conscience beyond
2747 a reasonable doubt.

2748 24-14-6.

2749 To warrant a conviction on circumstantial evidence, the proved facts shall not only be
2750 consistent with the hypothesis of guilt, but shall exclude every other reasonable hypothesis
2751 save that of the guilt of the accused.

2752 24-14-7.

2753 The existence of a fact testified to by one positive witness is to be believed, rather than that
2754 such fact did not exist because many other witnesses who had the same opportunity of
2755 observation swear that they did not see or know of its having existed. This rule shall not
2756 apply when two parties have equal facilities for seeing or hearing a thing and one swears
2757 that it occurred while the other swears that it did not.

2758 24-14-8.

2759 The testimony of a single witness is generally sufficient to establish a fact. However, in
2760 certain cases, including prosecutions for treason, prosecutions for perjury, and felony cases
2761 where the only witness is an accomplice, the testimony of a single witness shall not be
2762 sufficient. Nevertheless, corroborating circumstances may dispense with the necessity for
2763 the testimony of a second witness, except in prosecutions for treason.

2764 24-14-9.

2765 In arriving at a verdict, the jury, from facts proved, and sometimes from the absence of
 2766 counter evidence, may infer the existence of other facts reasonably and logically
 2767 consequent on those proved.

2768 ARTICLE 2

2769 24-14-20.

2770 Presumptions are either of law or of fact. Presumptions of law are conclusions and
 2771 inferences which the law draws from given facts. Presumptions of fact shall be exclusively
 2772 questions for the jury, to be decided by the ordinary test of human experience.

2773 24-14-21.

2774 Certain presumptions of law, such as the presumption of innocence, in some cases the
 2775 presumption of guilt, the presumption of continuance of life for seven years, the
 2776 presumption of a mental state once proved to exist, and all similar presumptions, may be
 2777 rebutted by proof.

2778 24-14-22.

2779 If a party has evidence in such party's power and within such party's reach by which he or
 2780 she may repel a claim or charge against him or her but omits to produce it or if such party
 2781 has more certain and satisfactory evidence in his or her power but relies on that which is
 2782 of a weaker and inferior nature, a presumption arises that the charge or claim against such
 2783 party is well founded; but this presumption may be rebutted.

2784 24-14-23.

2785 In the ordinary course of business, when good faith requires an answer, it is the duty of the
 2786 party receiving a letter from another to answer within a reasonable time. Otherwise, the
 2787 party shall be presumed to admit the propriety of the acts mentioned in the letter of the
 2788 party's correspondent and to adopt them.

2789 24-14-24.

2790 In any proceeding to establish a right, title, or interest in or to real property that is a part of
 2791 a railroad right of way, including a right of ingress or egress, where such proceeding is
 2792 based upon occupancy of the railroad right of way by a person or entity other than the
 2793 railroad corporation or railroad company, there shall be a presumption that any such

2794 occupancy of the railroad right of way is with the permission of the railroad corporation
 2795 or railroad company. Such presumption may be rebutted.

2796 24-14-25.

2797 (a) As used in this Code section:

2798 (1) 'Bank' means any person engaged in the business of banking and includes, in addition
 2799 to a commercial bank, a savings and loan association, savings bank, or credit union.

2800 (2) 'Check' means a draft, other than a documentary draft, payable on demand and drawn
 2801 on a bank, even though it is described by another term, such as 'share draft' or 'negotiable
 2802 order of withdrawal.'

2803 (b) In any dispute concerning payment by means of a check, a duplicate of the check
 2804 produced in accordance with Code Section 24-10-1003, together with the original bank
 2805 statement that reflects payment of the check by the bank on which it was drawn or a
 2806 duplicate thereof produced in the same manner, shall create a presumption that the check
 2807 has been paid.

2808 24-14-26.

2809 (a) Conclusive presumptions of law are termed estoppels; averments to the contrary of
 2810 such presumptions shall not be allowed. Estoppels are not generally favored.

2811 (b) Estoppels include presumptions in favor of:

2812 (1) A record or judgment unreversed;

2813 (2) The proper conduct of courts and judicial officers acting within their legitimate
 2814 spheres;

2815 (3) The proper conduct of other officers of the law after the lapse of time has rendered
 2816 it dangerous to open the investigation of their acts in regard to mere formalities of the
 2817 law;

2818 (4) Ancient deeds and other instruments more than 30 years old, when they come from
 2819 proper custody and possession has been held in accordance with them;

2820 (5) Recitals in deeds, except payment of purchase money, as against a grantor, sui juris,
 2821 acting in his or her own right, and his or her privies in estate, in blood, and in law;

2822 (6) A landlord's title as against his or her tenant in possession;

2823 (7) Solemn admissions made in judicio; or

2824 (8) Admissions upon which other parties have acted, either to their own injury or to the
 2825 benefit of the persons making the admissions.

2826 Estoppels also include all similar cases where it would be more unjust and productive of
 2827 evil to hear the truth than to forbear investigation.

2828 24-14-27.

2829 (a) Where an estoppel relates to the title to real estate, the party claiming to have been
2830 influenced by the other party's acts or declarations shall not only have been ignorant of the
2831 true title, but also ignorant of any convenient means of acquiring such knowledge.

2832 (b) Where both parties have equal knowledge or equal means of obtaining the truth, there
2833 shall be no estoppel.

2834 24-14-28.

2835 Trustees and other representatives with custody of papers have ample opportunities to
2836 discover defects in the title of property in their care and shall be estopped from setting up
2837 title adverse to their trust.

2838 24-14-29.

2839 In order for an equitable estoppel to arise, there shall generally be some intended deception
2840 in the conduct or declarations of the party to be estopped, or such gross negligence as to
2841 amount to constructive fraud, by which another has been misled to his or her injury.

2842 ARTICLE 3

2843 24-14-40.

2844 (a) Concordance of name alone is some evidence of identity. Residence, vocation,
2845 ownership of property, and other like facts may be proved. Reasonable certainty shall be
2846 all that is be required.

2847 (b) In civil proceedings, parties shall generally be relieved from the onus of proving
2848 identity, as it is a fact generally more easily disproved than established.

2849 24-14-41.

2850 An officer de facto may be proved to be such by his or her acts, without the production of
2851 his or her commission or appointment.

2852 24-14-42.

2853 A judgment shall be admissible between any parties to show the fact of the rendition
2854 thereof; between parties and privies it is conclusive as to the matter directly in issue, until
2855 reversed or set aside.

2856 24-14-43.

2857 Stern's United States calendar and Stafford's office calendar shall be admissible in proof
2858 of dates for the space of time covered by them respectively without further proof.

2859 24-14-44.

2860 In all civil proceedings where the life expectancy of a person shall be an issue, the
2861 American Experience Mortality Tables shall be admissible as evidence of the life
2862 expectancy of such person.

2863 24-14-45.

2864 (a) In addition to any other lawful methods of computing the value of the life of a decedent
2865 in wrongful death cases or of determining the present value of future due earnings or
2866 amounts in proceedings involving permanent personal injuries, there shall be admissible
2867 in evidence, as competent evidence in such proceedings, either or both of the following
2868 mortality tables:

2869 (1) The Commissioners 1958 Standard Ordinary Mortality Table; or

2870 (2) Annuity Mortality Table for 1949, Ultimate.

2871 (b) In addition to the provisions set out in subsection (a) of this Code section, the jury or
2872 court shall be authorized in cases of wrongful death or permanent personal injuries to use
2873 any table determined by the jury or court, whichever is the trier of fact, to be accurate in
2874 showing the value of annuities on single lives according to the mortality tables listed in
2875 subsection (a) of this Code section.

2876 (c) The admissible evidence provided for in subsections (a) and (b) of this Code section
2877 shall not be the exclusive method which the jury or court is required to use in such
2878 proceedings but shall be supplementary to other lawful and allowable evidence and
2879 methods for such purpose.

2880 24-14-46.

2881 All inspection certificates issued by the United States Department of Agriculture over the
2882 signature of any inspector thereof which are admissible in courts of the United States as
2883 prima-facie evidence of the truth of the statements therein contained shall be admissible
2884 in all courts of the State of Georgia as prima-facie evidence of the truth of the statements
2885 therein contained.

2886 24-14-47.

2887 (a) A written finding of presumed death made by officers or employees of the United
2888 States authorized to make such findings pursuant to any law of the United States or a duly

2889 certified copy of such finding shall be received in any court, office, or other place in this
 2890 state as evidence of the death of the person therein found to be dead and the date,
 2891 circumstances, and place of his or her disappearance.

2892 (b) An official written report, record, or duly certified copy thereof that a person is
 2893 missing, missing in action, interned in a neutral country, beleaguered, besieged, or captured
 2894 by an enemy, dead or alive, made by an officer or employee of the United States authorized
 2895 by any law of the United States to make the same shall be received in any court, office, or
 2896 other place in this state as evidence that such person is missing, missing in action, interned
 2897 in a neutral country, beleaguered, besieged, or captured by an enemy, dead or alive, as the
 2898 case may be.

2899 (c) For the purposes of subsections (a) and (b) of this Code section, any finding, report,
 2900 record, or duly certified copy thereof purporting to have been signed by an officer or
 2901 employee of the United States as is described in this Code section shall prima facie be
 2902 deemed to have been signed and issued by such an officer or employee pursuant to law, and
 2903 the person signing same shall prima facie be deemed to have acted within the scope of his
 2904 or her authority."

2905 **SECTION 3.**

2906 Code Section 4-11-17 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to filing a report
 2907 regarding animal cruelty, is amended by revising subsection (a) as follows:

2908 "(a) Notwithstanding Code Section ~~24-9-29~~ 24-12-31 or any other provision of law to the
 2909 contrary, any licensed veterinarian or veterinary technician having reasonable cause to
 2910 believe that an animal has been subjected to animal cruelty in violation of Code Section
 2911 16-12-4 or an act prohibited under Code Section 16-12-37 may make or cause to be made
 2912 a report of such violation to the Commissioner, his or her designee, an animal control
 2913 officer, a law enforcement agency, or a prosecuting attorney and may appear and testify in
 2914 any judicial or administrative proceeding concerning the care of an animal."

2915 **SECTION 4.**

2916 Article 1 of Chapter 1 of Title 7 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
 2917 provisions applicable to the Department of Banking and Finance and financial institutions
 2918 generally, is amended by revising Code Section 7-1-63, relating to retention of records, as
 2919 follows:

2920 "7-1-63.

2921 (a) The department shall issue regulations classifying records kept by financial institutions
 2922 and prescribing the period, if any, for which records of each class shall be retained and the
 2923 form in which such records shall be maintained. Such periods may be permanent or for a

2924 lesser term of years. In issuing such regulations, consideration shall be given to the
2925 objectives of this chapter and to:

- 2926 (1) Evidentiary effect in actions at law and administrative proceedings in which the
2927 production of records of financial institutions might be necessary or desirable;
2928 (2) State and federal statutes of limitation applicable to such actions or proceedings;
2929 (3) Availability of information contained in the records of the financial institution from
2930 other sources;
2931 (4) Requirements of electronic systems of transferring funds; and
2932 (5) Other pertinent matters;

2933 so that financial institutions will be required to retain records for as short a period as is
2934 commensurate with interests of customers, shareholders, and the people of this state.

2935 (b) The regulations of the department shall not require financial institutions to maintain
2936 originals of checks or items for the payment of money or original computer tapes or
2937 original records with respect to accounts which have been inactive for a period of 12
2938 successive months. Where a financial institution employs computers, its records may
2939 consist of legible products of computer operations.

2940 ~~(c) Any copy of a record or of a reproduction of a record stored in an electronic or
2941 photographic medium permitted to be kept in lieu of the original, under this Code section
2942 or the regulations of the department, including legible products of computer operations,
2943 shall be admissible in evidence as though it were the original."~~

2944

SECTION 5.

2945 Said article is further amended by revising Code Section 7-1-94, relating to evidential value
2946 of results of examinations or investigations, as follows:

2947 "7-1-94.

2948 ~~(a) The When the record of any examination or investigation of a financial institution by
2949 the department or the report by the examiner or employee of the department who conducted
2950 such examination or investigation or a copy of either, when duly certified by the
2951 department, shall, in the absence of any applicable privilege, be is admissible and constitute
2952 prima-facie in evidence of facts therein stated, but not of conclusions drawn by the
2953 examiner from such facts, in any action at law or equity in which one of the parties is the
2954 department or any officer or employee thereof, either in his official capacity or otherwise,
2955 or the financial institution subjected to examination or investigation under Title 24, the
2956 department, with the permission of the court, may edit out of the record or report any
2957 portion thereof which is not pertinent to the issue in question before the court or which
2958 would tend unnecessarily to affect adversely the public confidence in the financial
2959 institution.~~

2960 ~~(b) The department, with the permission of the court, may edit out of any report to be~~
 2961 ~~admitted as evidence pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section any portion of the~~
 2962 ~~report which is not pertinent to the issue in question before the court or which would tend~~
 2963 ~~unnecessarily to affect adversely the public confidence in the financial institution."~~

2964 **SECTION 6.**

2965 Said article is further amended by revising Code Section 7-1-95, relating to the admissibility
 2966 of department's certificates and copies, as follows:

2967 "7-1-95.

2968 ~~When duly certified by the department, a copy of any book, paper, or document on file with~~
 2969 ~~it or a certificate under its seal shall be prima-facie evidence of the facts therein stated in~~
 2970 ~~any court of law or equity or in any investigation or proceeding authorized by law or for~~
 2971 ~~any other purpose and shall be admissible without any additional authentication, but in any~~
 2972 ~~proceeding the court or public body having jurisdiction may, on cause shown, require~~
 2973 ~~production of the original Reserved."~~

2974 **SECTION 7.**

2975 Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
 2976 housing authorities, is amended by revising Code Section 8-3-6, relating to resolution as
 2977 conclusive evidence of authority's establishment and authority, as follows:

2978 "8-3-6.

2979 In any action or proceeding involving the validity or enforcement of, or otherwise relating
 2980 to, any contract of an authority, the authority shall be conclusively deemed to have become
 2981 established and authorized to transact business and exercise its powers under this article
 2982 upon proof of the adoption of a resolution by the governing body declaring the need for the
 2983 authority. Such resolution shall be deemed sufficient if it declares that there is need for an
 2984 authority and finds in substantially such terms as appear in subsection (a) of Code Section
 2985 8-3-5, no further detail being necessary, that either or both of the conditions enumerated
 2986 in that subsection exist in the city or county, as the case may be. ~~A copy of such resolution~~
 2987 ~~duly certified by the clerk shall be admissible in evidence in any action or proceeding."~~

2988 **SECTION 8.**

2989 Said article is further amended by revising Code Section 8-3-104, relating to resolution as
 2990 conclusive evidence of an authority's establishment, as follows:

2991 "8-3-104.

2992 In any suit, action, or proceeding involving the validity or enforcement of or relating to any
 2993 contract of the regional housing authority, the regional housing authority shall be

2994 conclusively deemed to have become created as a public body corporate and politic and to
 2995 have become established and authorized to transact business and exercise its powers under
 2996 this part upon proof of the adoption of a resolution by the governing body of each of the
 2997 counties creating the regional housing authority declaring the need for the regional housing
 2998 authority. Each such resolution shall be deemed sufficient if it declares that there is need
 2999 for the regional housing authority and finds in substantially such terms as appear in
 3000 paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a) of Code Section 8-3-102, no further detail being
 3001 necessary, that the conditions enumerated in those paragraphs exist. ~~A copy of such~~
 3002 ~~resolution of the governing body of a county duly certified by the clerk of such county shall~~
 3003 ~~be admissible in evidence in any suit, action, or proceeding."~~

3004

SECTION 9.

3005 Title 9 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to civil practice, is amended by
 3006 revising Code Section 9-10-6, relating to juror's private knowledge, as follows:

3007 "9-10-6.

3008 A juror shall not act on his or her private knowledge respecting the facts, witnesses, or
 3009 parties ~~unless sworn and examined as a witness in the case."~~

3010

SECTION 10.

3011 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 9-10-9, relating to jurors' affidavits
 3012 permitted to uphold but not impeach a verdict, as follows:

3013 "9-10-9.

3014 ~~The affidavits of jurors may be taken to sustain but not to impeach their verdict~~ Reserved."

3015

SECTION 11.

3016 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 9-11-44, relating to official records,
 3017 as follows:

3018 "9-11-44.

3019 ~~(a) *Proof of lack of record.* A written statement, signed by an officer having the custody~~
 3020 ~~of an official record or by his deputy, that after diligent search no record or entry of a~~
 3021 ~~specified tenor is found to exist in the records of his office, accompanied by a certificate~~
 3022 ~~attesting to his custody of the official record relating to such matters, is admissible as~~
 3023 ~~evidence that the records of his office contain no such record or entry.~~

3024 ~~(b) *Other proof.* This Code section does not prevent the proof of official records or of~~
 3025 ~~entry or lack of entry therein by any method authorized by any applicable statutes or by the~~
 3026 ~~rules of evidence at common law~~ Reserved."

3027

SECTION 12.

3028 Title 10 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to commerce and trade, is
3029 amended by revising Code Section 10-1-157, relating to collecting and testing samples of
3030 petroleum products and analyses as evidence, as follows:

3031 "10-1-157.

3032 The Commissioner of Agriculture shall, from time to time, collect or cause to be collected
3033 samples of all petroleum products subject to regulation under this part which are sold,
3034 offered, or exposed for sale in this state and cause such samples to be tested or analyzed
3035 by the state oil chemist. ~~The state oil chemist shall certify, under oath, an analysis of each
3036 such sample and such certificate shall be competent evidence of the composition of such
3037 petroleum product in any legal proceeding.~~ The Department of Agriculture shall have the
3038 power to implement rules and regulations necessary to carry out inspection of gasoline
3039 samples as provided for by this Code section."

3040

SECTION 13.

3041 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 10-1-188, relating to certified analyses
3042 as evidence, as follows:

3043 "10-1-188.

3044 ~~A copy of the analysis made by the state oil chemist of any brake fluid certified by him
3045 shall be admitted as evidence in any court of this state on the trial of any issue involving
3046 the analysis, standards, or specifications of brake fluid as defined and covered by this part~~
3047 Reserved."

3048

SECTION 14.

3049 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 10-1-208, relating to certified analyses
3050 as evidence, as follows:

3051 "10-1-208.

3052 ~~A copy of the analysis made by the state oil chemist of the Department of Agriculture of
3053 any antifreeze and certified by him shall be admitted as evidence in any court of this state
3054 upon trial of any issue involving the merits of antifreeze as defined and covered by this part~~
3055 Reserved."

3056

SECTION 15.

3057 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 10-1-444, relating to registration of
3058 marks, certificate, and use as evidence, as follows:

3059 "10-1-444.

3060 Upon compliance by the applicant with the requirements of this part, the Secretary of State
 3061 shall cause a certificate of registration to be issued and delivered to the applicant. The
 3062 certificate of registration shall be issued under the signature of the Secretary of State and
 3063 the seal of the state and it shall show the name and business address and, if a corporation,
 3064 the state of incorporation, of the person claiming ownership of the trademark or service
 3065 mark; the date claimed for the first use of the trademark or service mark anywhere and the
 3066 date claimed for the first use of the trademark or service mark in this state; the class of
 3067 goods or services and a description of the goods or services on which the trademark or
 3068 service mark is used; a reproduction of the trademark or service mark; the registration date;
 3069 and the term of the registration.

3070 ~~Any certificate of registration issued by the Secretary of State under the provisions of this~~
 3071 ~~Code section or a copy thereof duly certified by the Secretary of State shall be admissible~~
 3072 ~~in evidence as competent and sufficient proof of the registration of such trademark or~~
 3073 ~~service mark in any action or judicial proceedings in any court of this state."~~

3074 **SECTION 16.**

3075 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 10-4-15, relating to inspections of
 3076 warehouses and reports as evidence, as follows:

3077 "10-4-15.

3078 In addition to the general powers conferred by Code Section 10-4-5, the Commissioner and
 3079 his or her duly authorized agents or employees shall have full power and authority to
 3080 inspect public warehouses operated under this article, to inventory, and to check the
 3081 agricultural products stored so as to ascertain the conditions of such products and to
 3082 determine whether or not the business is conducted in such a manner as to protect the
 3083 interest of persons who are storing or may store such products. The inspectors shall make
 3084 sworn reports of their findings to the Commissioner, who shall hold and keep such reports
 3085 in the records of his or her office. ~~Such reports when sworn to shall be public records and~~
 3086 ~~shall be admissible as evidence.~~ Such inspections shall be made as often as deemed
 3087 necessary by the Commissioner, but not less than twice during any license period and, in
 3088 addition, as often as requested by the warehouseman."

3089 **SECTION 17.**

3090 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 10-6-64, relating to agent may be a
 3091 witness, credibility, and admissibility of agent's declarations, as follows:

3092 "10-6-64.

3093 ~~The agent shall be a competent witness either for or against his principal. His interest shall~~
 3094 ~~go to his credit. The declarations of the agent as to the business transacted by him shall not~~
 3095 ~~be admissible against his principal unless they were a part of the negotiation constituting~~
 3096 ~~the res gestae, or else the agent is dead Reserved."~~

3097 **SECTION 18.**

3098 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 10-14-27, relating to evidence in civil
 3099 or criminal actions under Chapter 14, as follows:

3100 "10-14-27.

3101 ~~(a) In any action, civil or criminal, a certificate signed and sealed by the Secretary of State,~~
 3102 ~~stating compliance or noncompliance with the provisions of this chapter, shall constitute~~
 3103 ~~prima-facie evidence of such compliance or noncompliance with the provisions of this~~
 3104 ~~chapter and shall be admissible in any such action.~~

3105 ~~(b) In any action, civil or criminal, copies, photostatic or otherwise, certified by the~~
 3106 ~~Secretary of State of any documents filed in his or her office and of any of his or her~~
 3107 ~~records shall be admissible with the same effect as the original of such documents or~~
 3108 ~~records would have if actually produced Reserved."~~

3109 **SECTION 19.**

3110 Code Section 14-9A-117 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to certified
 3111 copies admissible in evidence, is amended as follows:

3112 "14-9A-117.

3113 ~~A certified copy of the certificate, power of attorney, and affidavits required to be filed~~
 3114 ~~under Code Sections 14-9A-115 and 14-9A-116 shall be admissible in evidence in all~~
 3115 ~~courts and places whatever Reserved."~~

3116 **SECTION 20.**

3117 Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to courts, is amended by revising
 3118 Code Section 15-1-14, relating to participation in the Consortium for State Court Interpreter
 3119 Certification, as follows:

3120 "15-1-14.

3121 (a) The Supreme Court of Georgia shall establish rules and requirements for foreign
 3122 language interpreters and interpreters for the hearing impaired utilized in the courts of this
 3123 state and provide for the administration and enforcement of such rules. The Administrative
 3124 Office of the Courts shall administer such rules, requirements, and enforcement.

3125 (b) The Supreme Court may establish fees to be paid by persons desiring certification to
 3126 cover the costs of certifying, regulating, and training court qualified interpreters.

3127 (c) The Supreme Court may enter into and participate in the Consortium for State Court
 3128 Interpreter Certification established August 2, 1997, as amended August 1, 1998; Language
 3129 Access in the Courts and in other similar multistate agreements and cooperative programs
 3130 for the training, testing, and certification of interpreters. Such consortia, multistate
 3131 agreements, and cooperative programs may:

- 3132 (1) Utilize the auspices and services of the National Center for State Courts;
 3133 (2) Provide for the common development, sharing, and distribution of tests, standards,
 3134 educational materials, and programs and related work, and further provide for the
 3135 copyright and other protection of intellectual property;
 3136 (3) Charge fees for membership and other services and retain funds;
 3137 (4) Provide for governance and management; and
 3138 (5) Perform such other services and functions as may be reasonably related to such
 3139 purposes and functions."

3140 **SECTION 21.**

3141 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 15-11-79.1, relating to the use and
 3142 disposition of evidence, as follows:

3143 "15-11-79.1.

3144 Except as provided in subsection (d) of Code Section 24-6-609, the ~~The~~ disposition of a
 3145 child and evidence adduced in a hearing in the juvenile court may not be used against such
 3146 child in any proceeding in any court other than for a proceeding for delinquency or
 3147 unruliness, whether before or after reaching majority, except in the establishment of
 3148 conditions of bail, plea negotiations, and sentencing in felony offenses; and, in such
 3149 excepted cases, such records of dispositions and evidence shall be available to district
 3150 attorneys and superior court judges and the accused and may be used in the same manner
 3151 as adult records."

3152 **SECTION 22.**

3153 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 15-11-84, relating
 3154 to sharing of confidential information, as follows:

3155 "(b) Governmental entities and state, county, municipal, or consolidated government
 3156 departments, boards, or agencies shall exchange with each other all information not held
 3157 as confidential pursuant to federal law and relating to a child which may aid a
 3158 governmental entity in the assessment, treatment, intervention, or rehabilitation of a child,
 3159 notwithstanding Code Section 15-1-15; or 15-11-9.1, subsection (d) of Code Section

3160 15-11-10, or Code Section 15-11-66.1, 15-11-75, 15-11-81, 15-11-82, 15-11-174,
 3161 20-2-751.2, 20-14-40, ~~24-9-40.1, 24-9-41, 24-9-42~~ 24-12-10, 24-12-11, 24-12-20, 26-4-5,
 3162 26-4-80, 26-5-17, 31-5-5, 31-33-6, 37-1-53, 37-2-9.1, 42-5-36, 42-8-40, 42-8-106, 49-5-40,
 3163 49-5-41, 49-5-41.1, 49-5-44, 49-5-45, 49-5-183, 49-5-184, 49-5-185, or 49-5-186, in order
 3164 to serve the best interest of the child. Information which is shared pursuant to this
 3165 subsection shall not be utilized to assist in the prosecution of the child in juvenile court or
 3166 superior court or utilized to the detriment of the child."

3167 SECTION 23.

3168 Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (2) of subsection (c) of Code Section
 3169 15-18-14.1, relating to district attorney investigators, as follows:

3170 "(2) Assist victims and witnesses of crimes through the complexities of the criminal
 3171 justice system and ensure that victims of crime are apprised of the rights afforded them
 3172 under Chapter 14 of Title 17, ~~relating to restitution to victims of crime~~; Chapter 17 of
 3173 Title 17, the 'Crime Victims' Bill of Rights'; Chapter 18 of Title 17, ~~relating to providing~~
 3174 ~~a written statement of information to victims of rape or forcible sodomy~~; and Code
 3175 Section ~~24-6-616~~ 24-9-61.1, ~~relating to the presence of crime victims in the courtroom~~;"

3176 SECTION 24.

3177 Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of Code Section
 3178 15-18-15, relating to chief assistant district attorney, as follows:

3179 "(2) If the district attorney will be temporarily absent from the judicial circuit such that
 3180 he or she is not available to perform the duties of his or her office, the district attorney
 3181 may authorize, in writing, the chief assistant district attorney to exercise any of the
 3182 powers, duties, and responsibilities of the district attorney during such absence, including
 3183 but not limited to such powers and duties as the district attorney may have pursuant to
 3184 this title, Code Section 16-11-64, and Code Section ~~24-9-28~~ 24-5-507 and the laws of this
 3185 state relating to the validation of bonds."

3186 SECTION 25.

3187 Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to crimes and offenses, is
 3188 amended by revising subsection (e) of Code Section 16-5-27, relating to female genital
 3189 mutilation, as follows:

3190 "(e) The statutory privileges provided by Chapter ~~9~~ 5 of Title 24 shall not apply to
 3191 proceedings in which one of the parties to the privilege is charged with a crime against a
 3192 female under 18 years of age, but such person shall be compellable to give evidence only
 3193 on the specific act for which the ~~defendant~~ accused is charged."

3194

SECTION 26.

3195 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 16-12-55, relating to certification of
 3196 tax-exempt status of organization and evidentiary nature of certificate, is amended as
 3197 follows:

3198 "16-12-55.

3199 The director shall upon the request of any prosecuting attorney or his or her designee
 3200 certify the status of any organization as to that organization's exemption from payment of
 3201 state income taxes as a nonprofit organization. The director shall also upon request issue
 3202 a certificate indicating whether any particular organization holds a currently valid license
 3203 to operate a bingo game. ~~Such certificates properly executed shall be admissible in~~
 3204 ~~evidence in any prosecution and~~ Code Section 48-7-60, relative to the disclosure of income
 3205 tax information, shall not apply to the furnishing of such certificate."

3206

SECTION 27.

3207 Title 17 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to criminal procedure, is
 3208 amended by adding a new Code section to Article 2 of Chapter 4, relating to arrest by law
 3209 enforcement officers generally, to read as follows:

3210 "17-4-30.

3211 In the event a hearing impaired person is arrested for any alleged violation of a criminal
 3212 law of this state, the arresting officer shall comply with the provisions of Article 3 of
 3213 Chapter 6 of Title 24."

3214

SECTION 28.

3215 Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (4) of subsection (b) of Code Section
 3216 17-4-40, relating to persons who may issue warrants for arrest of offenders against penal
 3217 laws, as follows:

3218 "(4) At the warrant application hearing, the rules ~~regarding admission~~ of evidence at a
 3219 commitment hearing shall apply as set forth in paragraph (1) of subsection (d) of Code
 3220 Section 24-1-2. The person seeking the warrant shall have the customary rights of
 3221 presentation of evidence and cross-examination of witnesses. The person whose arrest
 3222 is sought may cross-examine the person or persons applying for the warrant and any other
 3223 witnesses testifying in support of the application at the hearing. The person whose arrest
 3224 is sought may present evidence that probable cause does not exist for his or her arrest.
 3225 The judge or other officer shall have the right to limit the presentation of evidence and
 3226 the cross-examination of witnesses to the issue of probable cause."

3227 **SECTION 29.**

3228 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 17-7-25, relating to the power of the
 3229 court to compel attendance of witnesses, as follows:

3230 "17-7-25.

3231 A court of inquiry shall have the same power to compel the attendance of witnesses as in
 3232 other criminal cases, as set forth in and subject to all of the provisions of Chapter ~~10~~ 13 of
 3233 Title 24, at any location where the court shall conduct a hearing, provided that notice is
 3234 given at least 24 hours prior to the hearing. A court of inquiry may order the arrest of
 3235 witnesses if required to compel their attendance."

3236 **SECTION 30.**

3237 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 17-7-28, relating to hearing of
 3238 evidence by court of inquiry and the right of a defendant to testify, as follows:

3239 "17-7-28.

3240 The court of inquiry shall hear all legal evidence submitted by either party. If the
 3241 ~~defendant~~ accused wishes to testify and announces in open court before the court of inquiry
 3242 his or her intention to do so, ~~he~~ the accused may testify in his or her own behalf. If ~~he so~~
 3243 the accused elects to testify, he or she shall be sworn as any other witness and may be
 3244 examined and cross-examined as any other witness, ~~except that no evidence of general bad~~
 3245 ~~character or prior convictions shall be admissible unless and until the defendant first puts~~
 3246 ~~his character into issue. The rules of evidence shall apply except that hearsay shall be~~
 3247 admissible. The failure of a ~~defendant~~ an accused to testify shall create no presumption
 3248 against ~~him~~ the accused, and no comment may be made because of such failure."

3249 **SECTION 31.**

3250 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 17-7-93, relating to
 3251 reading of indictment or accusation and recording of 'guilty' pleas and pronouncement of
 3252 judgment, as follows:

3253 "(b) If the person pleads 'guilty,' the plea shall be immediately recorded on the minutes of
 3254 the court by the clerk, together with the arraignment; and the court shall pronounce the
 3255 judgment of the law upon the person in the same manner as if he or she had been convicted
 3256 of the offense by the verdict of a jury. At any time before judgment is pronounced, the
 3257 accused person may withdraw the plea of 'guilty' and plead 'not guilty'; ~~and the former plea~~
 3258 ~~shall not be admissible as evidence against him at his trial."~~

3259 **SECTION 32.**

3260 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 17-9-20, relating to action by juror on
3261 private knowledge as to facts, witnesses, or parties, as follows:

3262 "17-9-20.

3263 A juror shall not act on his or her private knowledge respecting the facts, witnesses, or
3264 parties ~~unless he is sworn and examined as a witness in the case."~~

3265 **SECTION 33.**

3266 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 17-9-41, relating to the use of
3267 affidavits of jurors relating to verdict, as follows:

3268 "17-9-41.

3269 ~~The affidavits of jurors may be taken to sustain but not to impeach their verdict~~ Reserved."

3270 **SECTION 34.**

3271 Said title is further amended by revising subparagraph (b)(3)(C) of Code Section 17-16-4,
3272 relating to disclosure required by prosecuting attorney and defendant, as follows:

3273 "(C) The defendant shall, no later than five days before the trial commences, serve
3274 upon the prosecuting attorney a list of witnesses that the defendant intends to call as a
3275 witness in the presentence hearing. No later than the announcement of the verdict of
3276 the jury or if the defendant has waived a jury trial at the time the verdict is published
3277 by the court, the defendant shall produce for the opposing party any statement of such
3278 witnesses that is in the possession, custody, or control of the defendants or the
3279 defendant's counsel that relates to the subject matter of the testimony of such witnesses
3280 unless such statement is protected from disclosure by the privilege contained in
3281 paragraph (5), (6), (7), or (8) of subsection (a) of Code Section ~~24-9-21~~ 24-5-501."

3282 **SECTION 35.**

3283 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 17-17-9, relating to
3284 exclusion of a testifying victim from criminal proceedings, as follows:

3285 "(b) A victim of a criminal offense who has been or may be subpoenaed to testify at such
3286 hearing or trial shall be exempt from the provisions of Code Section ~~24-9-61~~ 24-6-616
3287 requiring sequestration; provided, however, that the court shall require that the victim be
3288 scheduled to testify as early as practical in the proceedings."

3289

SECTION 36.

3290 Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, is amended by
 3291 revising subsection (d) of Code Section 20-2-940, relating to grounds and procedure for
 3292 terminating or suspending contract of employment, as follows:

3293 "*(d) Counsel; testimony.* Any teacher, principal, or other person against whom such
 3294 charges listed in subsection (a) of this Code section have been brought shall be entitled to
 3295 be represented by counsel and, upon request, shall be entitled to have subpoenas or other
 3296 compulsory process issued for attendance of witnesses and the production of documents
 3297 and other evidence. Such subpoenas and compulsory process shall be issued in the name
 3298 of the local board and shall be signed by the ~~chairman~~ chairperson or ~~vice-chairman~~ vice
 3299 chairperson of the local board. In all other respects, such subpoenas and other compulsory
 3300 process shall be subject to ~~Part 1 of~~ Article 2 of Chapter ~~10~~ 13 of Title 24, ~~as now or~~
 3301 ~~hereafter amended.~~"

3302

SECTION 37.

3303 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 20-2-991, relating to liability
 3304 insurance for performance of duties authorized and the admissibility of insurance in
 3305 evidence, as follows:

3306 "20-2-991.

3307 In addition to other compensation paid to members of the State Board of Education, the
 3308 State School Superintendent, and employees of the state board, and to members of boards
 3309 of education, school superintendents, teachers, principals, officers, and employees of
 3310 boards of control of cooperative educational service agencies, and other administrators and
 3311 employees of county and other local public school systems, the state board, the boards of
 3312 control of cooperative educational service agencies, and the several boards of education of
 3313 counties, cities, and independent school systems, whenever created, are authorized, in their
 3314 discretion, to purchase policies of liability insurance or contracts of indemnity insuring or
 3315 indemnifying the members of the state board, State School Superintendent, employees of
 3316 the state board, officers and employees of boards of control of cooperative educational
 3317 service agencies, and the members of the boards of education, superintendents, teachers,
 3318 principals, and other administrators and employees against damages arising out of the
 3319 performance of their duties or in any way connected therewith, whether based upon
 3320 negligence, violation of contract rights, or violation of civil, constitutional, common-law,
 3321 or other statutory rights, whether state, federal, or both. Such boards may expend state,
 3322 county, federal, and local funds, or any combination thereof, for such purposes. The
 3323 amount of such insurance or indemnity shall be in the discretion of the respective board.
 3324 No action shall be maintained against the person or company issuing such insurance or

3325 contracting for such indemnity until final judgment has first been entered against the
 3326 individual covered by such policy or contract, ~~and the existence of such insurance or~~
 3327 ~~indemnity shall not be disclosed or suggested in any action brought against such~~
 3328 ~~individual."~~

3329 **SECTION 38.**

3330 Code Section 22-1-14 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to valuation of
 3331 condemned property, is amended as follows:

3332 "22-1-14.

3333 (a) When property is condemned under this title or any other title of this Code, the value
 3334 of the condemned property may be determined through lay or expert testimony and its
 3335 admissibility shall be addressed to the sound discretion of the court.

3336 (b) If any party to a condemnation proceeding seeks to introduce expert testimony as to
 3337 the issue of just and adequate compensation, Code Section ~~24-9-67.1~~ 24-7-702 shall not
 3338 apply."

3339 **SECTION 39.**

3340 Code Section 26-4-80 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to dispensing and
 3341 electronically transmitted drug orders, is amended by revising subsection (d) as follows:

3342 "(d) Information contained in the patient medication record or profile shall be considered
 3343 confidential information as defined in this title. Confidential information may be released
 3344 to the patient or the patient's authorized representative, the prescriber or other licensed
 3345 health care practitioners then caring for the patient, another licensed pharmacist, the board
 3346 or its representative, or any other person duly authorized to receive such information. In
 3347 accordance with Code Section ~~24-9-40~~ 24-12-1, confidential information may be released
 3348 to others only on the written release of the patient, court order, or subpoena."

3349 **SECTION 40.**

3350 Code Section 28-1-16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to issuance of
 3351 subpoenas by the Superior Court of Fulton County on behalf of the Committees on Ethics
 3352 of the Senate and House of Representatives, is amended by revising subsection (e) as
 3353 follows:

3354 "(e) A subpoena issued under this Code section may be served at any place in ~~the~~ this state
 3355 and in any manner authorized in Code Section ~~24-10-23~~ 24-13-24. Fees and mileage shall
 3356 be paid and tendered as provided in Code Section ~~24-10-24~~ 24-13-25, notwithstanding the
 3357 general exemption of the state from tender of fees and mileage, and shall be in the form of

3358 a check issued by the Legislative Fiscal Office upon the written request of the chairperson
3359 or acting chairperson."

3360 **SECTION 41.**

3361 Code Section 29-9-13.1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to authentication
3362 of documents, is amended as follows:

3363 "29-9-13.1.

3364 Whenever it is required that a document which is to be filed in the court be authenticated
3365 or exemplified, such requirement shall be met by complying with the provisions of Code
3366 Section ~~24-7-24~~ 24-9-922 and paragraphs (1) through (4) of Code Section 24-9-902 and
3367 such full faith and credit shall be given to the document as is provided in that Code
3368 section."

3369 **SECTION 42.**

3370 Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to health, is amended by revising
3371 Code Section 31-5-5, relating to contents of official record as evidence and classification of
3372 privileged materials, as follows:

3373 "31-5-5.

3374 ~~(a) Any order, rule, regulation, or any other document, record, or entry contained in the~~
3375 ~~official record or minutes of the department or of any county board of health shall be~~
3376 ~~admissible in evidence in any proceeding before any court or other tribunal in this state~~
3377 ~~where otherwise admissible and not privileged or confidential under this Code section~~
3378 ~~when certified as true and correct by and duly authorized by the director at the county level~~
3379 ~~and the examiner at the state level. It shall be the duty of the director or examiner, who~~
3380 ~~shall be custodian of such records, to furnish and certify copies of the record or other~~
3381 ~~evidence upon payment of reasonable costs therefor. Nothing in this Code section shall be~~
3382 ~~construed as applying to Code Section 12-5-175.~~

3383 ~~(b)~~ The department and county boards of health are authorized by regulation to classify
3384 as confidential and privileged documents, reports and other information and data obtained
3385 by them from persons, firms, corporations, municipalities, counties, and other public
3386 authorities and political subdivisions, where such matters relate to secret processes,
3387 formulas, and methods or where such matters were obtained or furnished on a confidential
3388 basis. All matters so classified shall not be subject to public inspection or discovery and
3389 shall not be subject to production or disclosure in any court of law or elsewhere until and
3390 unless the judge of the court of competent jurisdiction, after in camera inspection,
3391 determines that the public interest requires such production and disclosure or that such
3392 production and disclosure may be necessary in the ~~interest~~ interests of justice."

SECTION 43.

3393

3394 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 31-10-26, relating to certified copies
3395 of vital records, issuance, evidentiary effect, and use for other purposes, as follows:

3396 "31-10-26.

3397 (a) In accordance with Code Section 31-10-25 and the regulations adopted pursuant
3398 thereto:

3399 (1) The state registrar or local custodian of vital records appointed by the state registrar
3400 to issue certified copies upon receipt of a written application shall issue a certified copy
3401 of a vital record in that registrar's or custodian's custody or abstract thereof to any
3402 applicant having a direct and tangible interest in the vital record, except that certified
3403 copies of certificates shall only be issued to:

3404 (A) The person whose record of birth is registered;

3405 (B) Either parent, guardian, or temporary guardian of the person whose record of birth
3406 or death is registered;

3407 (C) The living legal spouse or next of kin or the legal representative or the person who
3408 in good faith has applied and produced a record of such application to become the legal
3409 representative of the person whose record of birth or death is registered;

3410 (D) The court of competent jurisdiction upon its order or subpoena; or

3411 (E) Any governmental agency, state or federal, provided that such certificate shall be
3412 needed for official purposes.

3413 (2) Each certified copy issued shall show the date of registration and ~~copies~~ duplicates
3414 issued from records marked 'delayed' or 'amended' shall be similarly marked and show
3415 the effective date. The documentary evidence used to establish a delayed certificate of
3416 birth shall be shown on all ~~copies~~ duplicates issued. All forms and procedures used in
3417 the issuance of certified copies of vital records in ~~the~~ this state shall be provided or
3418 approved by the state registrar.

3419 ~~(b) A certified copy of a vital record or any part thereof, issued in accordance with~~
3420 ~~subsection (a) of this Code section, shall be considered for all purposes the same as the~~
3421 ~~original and shall be prima-facie evidence of the facts stated therein, provided that the~~
3422 ~~evidentiary value of a certificate or record filed more than one year after the event, or a~~
3423 ~~record which has been amended, shall be determined by the judicial or administrative body~~
3424 ~~or official before whom the certificate is offered as evidence.~~

3425 ~~(c)~~ The federal agency responsible for national vital statistics may be furnished such
3426 ~~copies~~ duplicates or data from the system of vital records as it may require for national
3427 statistics, provided such federal agency shares in the cost of collecting, processing, and
3428 transmitting such data and provided further that such data shall not be used for other than
3429 statistical purposes by the federal agency unless so authorized by the state registrar.

3430 ~~(d)~~(c) The state registrar may, by agreement, transmit ~~copies~~ duplicates of records and
 3431 other reports required by this chapter to offices of vital records outside this state when such
 3432 records or other reports relate to residents of those jurisdictions or persons born in those
 3433 jurisdictions. The agreement shall require that the ~~copies~~ duplicates be used for statistical
 3434 and administrative purposes only and the agreement shall further provide for the retention
 3435 and disposition of such ~~copies~~ duplicates. ~~Copies~~ Duplicates received by the department
 3436 from offices of vital statistics in other states shall be handled in the same manner as
 3437 prescribed in this Code section.

3438 ~~(e)~~(d) No person shall prepare or issue any certificate which purports to be an original,
 3439 certified copy or ~~copy~~ duplicate of a vital record except as authorized in this chapter or
 3440 regulations adopted under this chapter.

3441 ~~(f)~~(e) No ~~copies~~ duplicates or parts thereof of a vital record shall be reproduced or
 3442 information ~~copies~~ copied for commercial or speculative purposes. This subsection shall
 3443 not apply to published results of research."

3444 **SECTION 44.**

3445 Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (3) of subsection (c) of Code Section
 3446 31-21-3, relating to death of person with infectious or communicable disease, as follows:

3447 "(3) That disclosure is made by a physician pursuant to Code Section ~~24-9-40~~ 24-12-1
 3448 or any other law authorizing a physician to disclose otherwise privileged information;"

3449 **SECTION 45.**

3450 Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to insurance, is amended by
 3451 revising Code Section 33-2-2, relating to seal of Commissioner and admissibility in evidence
 3452 of sealed documents, as follows:

3453 "33-2-2.

3454 The Commissioner shall have an official seal of such design as he or she shall select with
 3455 the approval of the Governor. ~~Every certificate and other document or paper executed by~~
 3456 ~~the Commissioner in the pursuance of any authority conferred upon him by law and sealed~~
 3457 ~~with the seal of his office and all copies or photographic copies of papers certified by him~~
 3458 ~~and authenticated by said seal shall in all cases be evidence 'in equal and like manner' as~~
 3459 ~~the original thereof and shall in all cases be primary evidence of the contents of the original~~
 3460 ~~and shall be admissible in any court in this state."~~

3461 **SECTION 46.**

3462 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 33-20A-37, relating
 3463 to the effect of favorable determinations, as follows:

3464 "(b) A determination by the independent review organization in favor of a managed care
 3465 entity shall create a rebuttable presumption in any subsequent action that the managed care
 3466 entity's prior determination was appropriate and shall constitute a medical record for
 3467 purposes of Code Section 24-7-8."

3468 **SECTION 47.**

3469 Title 34 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to labor and industrial relations,
 3470 is amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 34-9-60, relating to rule-making and
 3471 subpoena powers, as follows:

3472 "(a) The board may make rules, not inconsistent with this chapter, for carrying out this
 3473 chapter. Processes and procedure under this chapter shall be as summary and simple as
 3474 reasonably possible; provided, however, that, in any proceeding under this chapter where
 3475 the parties are represented by counsel, the board may require, by rule or regulation, on
 3476 forms provided by the board, the filing of statements of contentions and points of
 3477 agreement. The board may promulgate policies, rules, and regulations concerning the
 3478 electronic submission to and transmission from the board of documents and filings. The
 3479 board, any member of the board, or any administrative law judge shall have the power for
 3480 the purposes of this chapter to issue and enforce subpoenas, to administer or cause to have
 3481 administered oaths, and to examine or cause to be examined such parts of the books and
 3482 records of the parties to a proceeding as relate to questions in dispute. Article 2 of Chapter
 3483 ~~10~~ 13 of Title 24 shall govern the issuance and enforcement of subpoenas pursuant to this
 3484 Code section, except that the board, any member of the board, or any administrative law
 3485 judge shall carry out the functions of the court and the executive director shall carry out the
 3486 functions of the clerk of the court. The board shall not, however, have the power to order
 3487 imprisonment as a means of enforcing a subpoena. The board shall have the power to issue
 3488 writs of fieri facias in order to collect fines imposed pursuant to this Code section and such
 3489 writs may be enforced in the same manner as a similar writ issued by a superior court."

3490 **SECTION 48.**

3491 Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (5) of subsection (e) of Code Section
 3492 34-9-102, relating to hearings before administrative law judges, as follows:

3493 "(5) Code Section ~~24-3-18~~ 24-8-826 shall not apply to workers' compensation claims
 3494 filed under this chapter."

3495 **SECTION 49.**

3496 Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (4) of subsection (b) of Code Section
 3497 34-9-108, relating to approval of attorney's fees by the board, as follows:

3498 "(4) Upon a determination that proceedings have been brought, prosecuted, or defended
 3499 in whole or in part without reasonable grounds, the administrative law judge or the board
 3500 may, in addition to reasonable attorney's fees, award to the adverse party in whole or in
 3501 part reasonable litigation expenses against the offending party. Reasonable litigation
 3502 expenses under this subsection are limited to witness fees and mileage pursuant to Code
 3503 Section ~~24-10-24~~ 24-13-25; reasonable expert witness fees subject to the fee schedule;
 3504 reasonable deposition transcript costs; and the cost of the hearing transcript."

3505 **SECTION 50.**

3506 Chapter 3 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Georgia
 3507 Bureau of Investigation, is amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

3508 "ARTICLE 6A

3509 35-3-160.

3510 (a) As used in this article, the term:

3511 (1) 'Department' means the Department of Corrections.

3512 (2) 'Division' means the Division of Forensic Services of the Georgia Bureau of
 3513 Investigation.

3514 (3) 'State correctional facility' means a penal institution under the jurisdiction of the
 3515 department, including inmate work camps and inmate boot camps; provided, however,
 3516 that such term shall not include a probation detention center, probation diversion center,
 3517 or probation boot camp under the jurisdiction of the department.

3518 (b) Any person convicted of:

3519 (1) Rape in violation of Code Section 16-6-1;

3520 (2) Sodomy or aggravated sodomy in violation of Code Section 16-6-2;

3521 (3) Statutory rape in violation of Code Section 16-6-3;

3522 (4) Child molestation or aggravated child molestation in violation of Code Section
 3523 16-6-4;

3524 (5) Enticing a child for indecent purposes in violation of Code Section 16-6-5;

3525 (6) Sexual assault against persons in custody, sexual assault against a person detained
 3526 or a patient in a hospital or other institution, or sexual assault by a practitioner of
 3527 psychotherapy against a patient in violation of Code Section 16-6-5.1;

3528 (7) Bestiality in violation of Code Section 16-6-6;

3529 (8) Necrophilia in violation of Code Section 16-6-7; or

3530 (9) Incest in violation of Code Section 16-6-22

3531 shall have a sample of his or her blood, an oral swab, or a sample obtained from a
 3532 noninvasive procedure taken for DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) analysis to determine
 3533 identification characteristics specific to the person. In addition, on and after July 1, 2000,
 3534 any person convicted of a felony and incarcerated in a state correctional facility shall at the
 3535 time of entering the prison system have a sample of his or her blood, an oral swab, or a
 3536 sample obtained from a noninvasive procedure taken for DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid)
 3537 analysis to determine identification characteristics specific to the person. The provisions
 3538 and requirements of this Code section shall also apply to any person who has been
 3539 convicted of a felony prior to July 1, 2000, and who currently is incarcerated in a state
 3540 correctional facility in this state for such offense. The provisions and requirements of this
 3541 Code section shall also apply to any person who has been convicted of a felony in this state
 3542 on or after July 1, 2000, and who is incarcerated in a private correctional facility in this
 3543 state for such offense pursuant to a contract with the department upon entering the facility,
 3544 and for any person convicted of a felony prior to July 1, 2000, and who is incarcerated in
 3545 a private correctional facility in this state pursuant to contract with the department. The
 3546 analysis shall be performed by the division. The division shall be authorized to contract
 3547 with individuals or organizations for services to perform such analysis. The identification
 3548 characteristics of the profile resulting from the DNA analysis shall be stored and
 3549 maintained by the bureau in a DNA data bank and shall be made available only as provided
 3550 in Code Section 35-3-163.

3551 (c)(1) On and after July 1, 2007, any person who is placed on probation shall have a
 3552 sample of his or her blood, an oral swab, or a sample obtained from a noninvasive
 3553 procedure taken for DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) analysis to determine identification
 3554 characteristics specific to the person if such person is convicted of a felony violation of:

3555 (A) Chapter 5 of Title 16;

3556 (B) Rape in violation of Code Section 16-6-1;

3557 (C) Sodomy or aggravated sodomy in violation of Code Section 16-6-2;

3558 (D) Statutory rape in violation of Code Section 16-6-3;

3559 (E) Child molestation or aggravated child molestation in violation of Code Section
 3560 16-6-4;

3561 (F) Enticing a child for indecent purposes in violation of Code Section 16-6-5;

3562 (G) Sexual assault against persons in custody, sexual assault against a person detained
 3563 or a patient in a hospital or other institution, or sexual assault by a practitioner of
 3564 psychotherapy against a patient in violation of Code Section 16-6-5.1;

3565 (H) Bestiality in violation of Code Section 16-6-6;

3566 (I) Necrophilia in violation of Code Section 16-6-7;

3567 (J) Incest in violation of Code Section 16-6-22;

3568 (K) Burglary in violation of Code Section 16-7-1;
3569 (L) Robbery in violation of Code Section 16-8-40;
3570 (M) Armed robbery in violation of Code Section 16-8-41;
3571 (N) Impersonating a peace officer or public officer or employee in violation of Code
3572 Section 16-10-23;
3573 (O) Obstruction or hindering any law enforcement officer in violation of Code Section
3574 16-10-24;
3575 (P) Article 4 of Chapter 11 of Title 16; or
3576 (Q) Chapter 13 of Title 16.
3577 (2) The analysis shall be performed by the division. The division shall be authorized to
3578 contract with individuals or organizations for services to perform such analysis. The
3579 identification characteristics of the profile resulting from the DNA analysis shall be
3580 stored and maintained by the bureau in a DNA data bank and shall be made available
3581 only as provided in Code Section 35-3-163. The department shall be responsible for
3582 collecting such sample.

3583 35-3-161.
3584 (a) Each sample required pursuant to Code Section 35-3-160 from persons who are to be
3585 incarcerated shall be withdrawn within the first 30 days of incarceration at the receiving
3586 unit or at such other place as is designated by the department. Each sample required
3587 pursuant to Code Section 35-3-160 from persons who are to be released from a state
3588 correctional facility or private correctional facility shall be withdrawn within the 12 months
3589 preceding such person's release at a place designated by the department. The required
3590 samples from persons who are not sentenced to a term of confinement shall be withdrawn
3591 as a condition of probation. The division shall publish in its quality manuals the
3592 procedures for the collection and transfer of samples to such division pursuant to Code
3593 Section 35-3-154. Personnel at a department facility shall implement the provisions of this
3594 Code section as part of the regular processing of offenders.
3595 (b) Samples collected by oral swab or by a noninvasive procedure may be collected by any
3596 individual who has been trained in the procedure. Only a correctional health nurse
3597 technician, physician, registered professional nurse, licensed practical nurse, graduate
3598 laboratory technician, or phlebotomist shall withdraw any sample of blood to be submitted
3599 for analysis. No civil liability shall attach to any person authorized to take a sample as
3600 provided in this article as a result of the act of taking a sample from any person submitting
3601 thereto, provided the sample was taken according to recognized medically accepted
3602 procedures. However, no person shall be relieved from liability for negligence in the
3603 withdrawing of any blood sample.

3604 (c) Chemically clean sterile disposable needles shall be used for the withdrawal of all
3605 samples of blood. The containers for blood samples, oral swabs, and the samples obtained
3606 by noninvasive procedures shall be sealed and labeled with the subject's name, social
3607 security number, date of birth, race, and gender plus the name of the person collecting the
3608 sample and the date and place of collection. The containers shall be secured to prevent
3609 tampering with the contents. The steps set forth in this subsection relating to the taking,
3610 handling, identification, and disposition of samples are procedural and not substantive.
3611 Substantial compliance therewith shall be deemed to be sufficient. The samples shall be
3612 transported to the division not more than 15 days following withdrawal and shall be
3613 analyzed and stored in the DNA data bank in accordance with Code Sections 35-3-162 and
3614 35-3-163.

3615 35-3-162.

3616 Whether or not the results of an analysis are to be included in the data bank, the bureau
3617 shall conduct the DNA analysis in accordance with procedures adopted by the bureau to
3618 determine identification characteristics specific to the individual whose sample is being
3619 analyzed. The director of the bureau or his or her designated representative shall complete
3620 and maintain on file a form indicating the name of the person whose sample is to be
3621 analyzed, the date and by whom the sample was received and examined, and a statement
3622 that the seal on the container containing the sample had not been broken or otherwise
3623 tampered with. The remainder of a sample submitted for analysis and inclusion in the data
3624 bank pursuant to Code Section 35-3-160 may be divided, if possible, labeled as provided
3625 for the original sample, and securely stored by the bureau in accordance with specific
3626 procedures of the bureau to ensure the integrity and confidentiality of the samples. All or
3627 part of the remainder of that sample may be used only to create a statistical data base
3628 provided no identifying information on the individual whose sample is being analyzed is
3629 included or for retesting by the bureau to validate or update the original analysis. A report
3630 of the results of a DNA analysis conducted by the bureau as authorized, including the
3631 identifying information, shall be made and maintained at the bureau. Except as specifically
3632 provided in this Code section and Code Section 35-3-163, the results of the analysis shall
3633 be securely stored and shall remain confidential.

3634 35-3-163.

3635 (a) It shall be the duty of the bureau to receive samples and to analyze, classify, and file
3636 the results of DNA identification characteristics of samples submitted pursuant to Code
3637 Section 35-3-160 and to make such information available as provided in this Code section.
3638 The results of an analysis and comparison of the identification of the characteristics from

3639 two or more biological samples shall be made available directly to federal, state, and local
3640 law enforcement officers upon a request made in furtherance of an official investigation
3641 of any criminal offense. A request may be made by personal contact, mail, or electronic
3642 means. The name of the requestor and the purpose for which the information is requested
3643 shall be maintained on file with the bureau.

3644 (b) Upon request from a prosecutor or law enforcement agency, the bureau may compare
3645 a DNA profile from an analysis of a sample from a suspect in a criminal investigation
3646 where the sample was obtained through a search warrant, consent of the suspect, court
3647 order, or other lawful means to DNA profiles lawfully collected and maintained by the
3648 bureau. The bureau shall not add a DNA profile of any such suspect to any DNA data bank
3649 except upon conviction as provided in this article.

3650 (c)(1) Upon his or her request, a copy of the request for search shall be furnished to any
3651 person identified and charged with an offense as the result of a search of information in
3652 the data bank. Only when a sample or DNA profile supplied by the requestor
3653 satisfactorily matches the requestor's profile in the data bank shall the existence of data
3654 in the data bank be confirmed or identifying information from the data bank be
3655 disseminated.

3656 (2) The name of the convicted offender whose profile is contained in the data bank may
3657 be related to any other data bases which are constructed for law enforcement purposes
3658 and may be disseminated only for law enforcement purposes.

3659 (3) Upon a showing by the accused in a criminal proceeding that access to the DNA data
3660 bank is material to the investigation, preparation, or presentation of a defense at trial or
3661 in a motion for a new trial, a superior court having proper jurisdiction over such criminal
3662 proceeding shall direct the bureau to compare a DNA profile which has been generated
3663 by the accused through an independent test against the data bank, provided that such
3664 DNA profile has been generated in accordance with standards for forensic DNA analysis
3665 adopted pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Section 14131.

3666 (d) The bureau shall develop procedures governing the methods of obtaining information
3667 from the data bank in accordance with this Code section and procedures for verification of
3668 the identity and authority of the requestor. The bureau shall specify the positions in that
3669 agency which require regular access to the data bank and samples submitted as a necessary
3670 function of the job.

3671 (e) The bureau may create a separate statistical data base comprised of DNA profiles of
3672 samples of persons whose identity is unknown. Nothing in this Code section or Code
3673 Section 35-3-164 shall prohibit the bureau from sharing or otherwise disseminating the
3674 information in the statistical data base with law enforcement or criminal justice agencies
3675 within or outside this state.

3676 (f) The bureau may charge a reasonable fee to search and provide a comparative analysis
 3677 of DNA profiles in the data bank to any authorized law enforcement agency outside of this
 3678 state.

3679 35-3-164.

3680 (a) Any person who, without authority, disseminates information contained in the data
 3681 bank shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Any person who disseminates, receives, or
 3682 otherwise uses or attempts to so use information in the data bank, knowing that such
 3683 dissemination, receipt, or use is for a purpose other than as authorized by law, shall be
 3684 guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature.

3685 (b) Except for purposes of law enforcement or as authorized by this article, any person
 3686 who, for purposes of having DNA analysis performed, obtains or attempts to obtain any
 3687 sample submitted to the division for analysis shall be guilty of a felony.

3688 35-3-165.

3689 A person whose DNA profile has been included in the data bank pursuant to this article
 3690 may request that it be expunged on the grounds that the conviction on which the authority
 3691 for including his or her DNA profile was based has been reversed and the case dismissed.
 3692 The bureau shall purge all records and identifiable information in the data bank pertaining
 3693 to the person and destroy all samples from the person upon receipt of a written request that
 3694 such data be expunged, pursuant to this Code section, and a certified copy of the court
 3695 order reversing and dismissing the conviction."

3696 **SECTION 51.**

3697 Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to local government, is amended
 3698 by revising paragraph (2) of Code Section 36-74-25, relating to powers of enforcement
 3699 boards created on or after January 1, 2003, as follows:

3700 "(2) Subpoena alleged violators and witnesses to its hearings, with the approval of the
 3701 court with jurisdiction over a criminal violator of the county or municipal code or
 3702 ordinance. Subpoenas may be served by the sheriff, marshal, or police department of the
 3703 county or by the police department of the municipality or by any other individual
 3704 authorized by Code Section ~~24-10-23~~ 24-13-24 to serve subpoenas;"

3705 **SECTION 52.**

3706 Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (2) of Code Section 36-74-45, relating
 3707 to powers of enforcement boards created prior to January 1, 2003, as follows:

3708 "(2) Subpoena alleged violators and witnesses to its hearings, with the approval of the
 3709 court with jurisdiction over a criminal violator of the county or municipal code or
 3710 ordinance. Subpoenas may be served by the sheriff, marshal, or police department of the
 3711 county or by the police department of the municipality or by any other individual
 3712 authorized by Code Section ~~24-10-23~~ 24-13-24 to serve subpoenas;"

3713 **SECTION 53.**

3714 Title 37 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to mental health, is amended by
 3715 revising subsections (b) and (c) of Code Section 37-3-166, relating to treatment of clinical
 3716 records, when release is permitted, and scope of privileged communications, as follows:

3717 "(b) In connection with any hearing held under this chapter, any physician, including any
 3718 psychiatrist, or any psychologist who is treating or who has treated the patient shall be
 3719 authorized to give evidence as to any matter concerning the patient, including evidence as
 3720 to communications otherwise privileged under Code Section ~~24-9-21, 24-9-40, 24-5-501,~~
 3721 24-12-1, or 43-39-16.

3722 (c) Any disclosure authorized by this Code section or any unauthorized disclosure of
 3723 confidential or privileged patient information or communications shall not in any way
 3724 abridge or destroy the confidential or privileged character thereof, except for the purpose
 3725 for which such authorized disclosure is made. Any person making a disclosure authorized
 3726 by this Code section shall not be liable to the patient or any other person, notwithstanding
 3727 any contrary provision of Code Section ~~24-9-21, 24-9-40, 24-5-501, 24-12-1,~~ or 43-39-16."

3728 **SECTION 54.**

3729 Said title is further amended by revising subsections (b) and (c) of Code Section 37-4-125,
 3730 relating to treatment of clinical records and scope of privileged communications, as follows:

3731 "(b) In connection with any hearing held under this chapter, any physician, including any
 3732 psychiatrist, or any psychologist who is treating or who has treated the client shall be
 3733 authorized to give evidence as to any matter concerning the client, including evidence as
 3734 to communications otherwise privileged under Code Section ~~24-9-21, 24-9-40, 24-5-501,~~
 3735 24-12-1, or 43-39-16.

3736 (c) Any disclosure authorized by this Code section or any unauthorized disclosure of
 3737 confidential or privileged client information or communications shall not in any way
 3738 abridge or destroy the confidential or privileged character thereof, except for the purpose
 3739 for which such authorized disclosure is made. Any person making a disclosure authorized
 3740 by subsection (a) of this Code section shall not be liable to the client or any other person,
 3741 notwithstanding any contrary provision of Code Section ~~24-9-21, 24-9-40, 24-5-501,~~
 3742 24-12-1, or 43-39-16."

3743

SECTION 55.

3744 Said title is further amended by revising subsections (b) and (c) of Code Section 37-7-166,
 3745 relating to maintenance, confidentiality, and release of clinical records and disclosure of
 3746 confidential or privileged patient information, as follows:

3747 "(b) In connection with any hearing held under this chapter, any physician, including any
 3748 psychiatrist, or any psychologist who is treating or who has treated the patient shall be
 3749 authorized to give evidence as to any matter concerning the patient, including evidence as
 3750 to communications otherwise privileged under Code Section ~~24-9-21, 24-9-40,~~ 24-5-501,
 3751 24-12-1, or 43-39-16.

3752 (c) Any disclosure authorized by this Code section or any unauthorized disclosure of
 3753 confidential or privileged patient information or communications shall not in any way
 3754 abridge or destroy the confidential or privileged character thereof, except for the purpose
 3755 for which such authorized disclosure is made. Any person making a disclosure authorized
 3756 by this Code section shall not be liable to the patient or any other person, notwithstanding
 3757 any contrary provision of Code Section ~~24-9-21, 24-9-40,~~ 24-5-501, 24-12-1, or 43-39-16."

3758

SECTION 56.

3759 Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to motor vehicles and traffic, is
 3760 amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 40-2-74, relating to special license
 3761 plates for persons with disabilities, as follows:

3762 "(b) A hearing impaired person otherwise qualified under this subsection shall be eligible
 3763 to have issued to him or her a specially designated disabled person's license plate in
 3764 accordance with this Code section. As used in this Code section, 'hearing impaired person'
 3765 shall have the same meaning as defined in Code Section ~~24-9-101~~ 24-6-651, except that
 3766 the term 'hearing impaired person' shall not include any person who is not qualified for a
 3767 driver's license pursuant to Code Section 40-5-35, ~~relating to reports by physicians and~~
 3768 ~~vision specialists in connection with the issuance or revocation of drivers' licenses, as now~~
 3769 ~~or hereafter amended.~~ For purposes of this subsection, presentation of an identification
 3770 card for persons with disabilities issued pursuant to Article 8 of Chapter 5 of this title shall
 3771 constitute proof of hearing impairment."

3772

SECTION 57.

3773 Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (1) of subsection (d) of Code Section
 3774 40-5-2, relating to keeping of records of applications for licenses and information on
 3775 licensees, as follows:

3776 "(d)(1) The commissioner shall designate members of the department to be the official
 3777 custodians of the records of the department. No disclosure or release of operating records

3778 or personal information shall be made without the signed written approval of a designated
 3779 custodian; except that such approval shall not be required for any release or disclosure
 3780 through the GeorgiaNet Division of the Georgia Technology Authority pursuant to the
 3781 signed written consent of the driver, provided that any such signed written consent shall
 3782 be retained for a period of not less than four years by the party requesting the
 3783 information; and except that such approval shall not be required for any release or
 3784 disclosure of information made electronically through the GeorgiaNet Division of the
 3785 Georgia Technology Authority in accordance with a contract authorized by subparagraph
 3786 (c)(1)(B) of this Code section. The custodians may certify copies or compilations,
 3787 including extracts thereof, of the records of the department. ~~When so certified, such~~
 3788 ~~records shall be admissible as evidence in any civil or criminal proceeding as proof of the~~
 3789 ~~contents thereof."~~

3790 **SECTION 58.**

3791 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (d) of Code Section 40-5-58, relating to
 3792 habitual violators, as follows:

3793 "(d) Notwithstanding any contrary provisions of Code Section 17-7-95 or 24-4-410, for the
 3794 purposes of this Code section, any plea of nolo contendere entered and accepted after
 3795 January 1, 1976, shall be considered a conviction."

3796 **SECTION 59.**

3797 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (d) of Code Section 40-6-10, relating to
 3798 insurance requirements for operation of motor vehicles generally, as follows:

3799 "(d) Except for vehicles insured under a fleet policy as defined in Code Section 40-2-137
 3800 or under a plan of self-insurance approved by the Commissioner of Insurance, insurance
 3801 coverage information from records of the department shall be prima-facie evidence of the
 3802 facts stated therein and shall be admissible as evidence in accordance with Code Section
 3803 ~~24-3-17~~ 24-9-924 for the purposes of this Code section."

3804 **SECTION 60.**

3805 Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (1) of subsection (d) of Code Section
 3806 40-6-11, relating to insurance requirements for operation of motorcycles, as follows:

3807 "(d)(1) Insurance coverage information from records of the department shall be
 3808 prima-facie evidence of the facts stated therein and shall be admissible as evidence in
 3809 accordance with Code Section ~~24-3-17~~ 24-9-924 for the purposes of this Code section."

3810 **SECTION 61.**

3811 Title 42 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to penal institutions, is amended
 3812 by revising subsection (c) of Code Section 42-5-52.2, relating to testing of prison inmates for
 3813 HIV, as follows:

3814 "(c) Each person tested as provided in subsection (b) of this Code section shall be notified
 3815 by the department in writing of the results of such testing prior to his or her release. Prior
 3816 to the release of any person testing positive for HIV, the appropriate information as
 3817 required by Code Sections ~~24-9-47~~ 24-12-21 and 31-22-9.2 or other law shall be provided
 3818 by the department to the Department of Community Health. Prior to the release of any
 3819 person testing positive for HIV, the department shall also provide to such person in writing
 3820 contact information regarding medical, educational, and counseling services available
 3821 through the Department of Community Health. Any person testing positive for HIV shall
 3822 be provided instruction relating to living with HIV, the prevention of the spread of such
 3823 virus, and the legal consequences of infecting unknowing partners."

3824 **SECTION 62.**

3825 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 42-6-4, relating to the effect of failure
 3826 to meet time limit for trial after delivery of inmate pursuant to Code Section 24-10-60, as
 3827 follows:

3828 "42-6-4.

3829 If an inmate is not brought to trial upon a pending indictment or accusation within two
 3830 terms of court after delivery of the inmate to the sheriff or a deputy sheriff pursuant to
 3831 subsection (a) of Code Section ~~24-10-60~~ 24-13-60, provided no continuance has been
 3832 granted, all detainers based upon the pending indictments or accusations shall be stricken
 3833 and dismissed from the records of the department."

3834 **SECTION 63.**

3835 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 42-6-5, relating to
 3836 the temporary custody of inmate requesting disposition of pending indictment or accusation,
 3837 as follows:

3838 "(a) In response to the request of an inmate for final disposition of any pending indictment
 3839 or accusation made pursuant to Code Section 42-6-3 or pursuant to an order of a court
 3840 entered pursuant to subsection (a) of Code Section ~~24-10-60~~ 24-13-60, the department shall
 3841 offer to deliver temporary custody of the inmate to the sheriff or a deputy sheriff of the
 3842 county in which the indictment or accusation is pending against the inmate. The judge of
 3843 the court in which the proceedings are pending is authorized to and shall issue an ex parte

3844 order directed to the department requiring the delivery of the inmate to the sheriff or a
3845 deputy sheriff of the county in which the trial is to be held."

3846 **SECTION 64.**

3847 Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to professions and businesses,
3848 is amended by revising paragraph (5) of subsection (b) of Code Section 43-3-24, relating to
3849 issuance of permits to practice accountancy, as follows:

3850 "(5) An individual qualifying for the practice privilege under paragraph (1) of this
3851 subsection may provide expert witness services in this state and shall be deemed to be in
3852 compliance with ~~paragraph (1) of subsection (c) of Code Section 24-9-67.1~~ 24-7-702 for
3853 purposes of such services."

3854 **SECTION 65.**

3855 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 43-6-6, relating to The Georgia
3856 Auctioneers Commission seal and receipt of copies of records and papers as evidence, as
3857 follows:

3858 "43-6-6.

3859 The commission shall adopt a seal, which may be either an engraved or ink stamp seal,
3860 with the words 'State Auctioneers Commission, State of Georgia' and such other devices
3861 as the commission may desire included thereon, by which it shall authenticate the acts of
3862 the commission. ~~Copies of all records and papers in the office of the commission certified
3863 by the signature of the commission chairman and the seal of the commission shall be
3864 received in evidence in all cases equally and with like effect as the originals."~~

3865 **SECTION 66.**

3866 Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (11) of subsection (a) of Code Section
3867 43-9-12, relating to The Georgia Board of Chiropractic Examiners' refusal, suspension, or
3868 revocation of licenses, as follows:

3869 "(11)(A) Become unable to practice chiropractic with reasonable skill and safety to
3870 patients by reason of illness or use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics, chemicals, or any other
3871 type of material, or as a result of any mental or physical condition.

3872 (B) In enforcing this paragraph, the board may, upon reasonable grounds, require a
3873 licensee or applicant to submit to a mental or physical examination by licensed health
3874 care providers designated by the board. The results of such examination shall be
3875 admissible in any hearing before the board, notwithstanding any claim of privilege
3876 under a contrary rule of law or statute, including, but not limited to, Code Section
3877 ~~24-9-21~~ 24-5-501. Every person who shall accept the privilege of practicing

3878 chiropractic in this state or who shall file an application for a license to practice
 3879 chiropractic in this state shall be deemed to have given his or her consent to submit to
 3880 such mental or physical examination and to have waived all objections to the
 3881 admissibility of the results in any hearing before the board, upon the grounds that the
 3882 same constitutes a privileged communication. If a licensee or applicant fails to submit
 3883 to such an examination when properly directed to do so by the board, unless such
 3884 failure was due to circumstances beyond his or her control, the board may enter a final
 3885 order upon proper notice, hearing, and proof of such refusal. Any licensee or applicant
 3886 who is prohibited from practicing chiropractic under this paragraph shall at reasonable
 3887 intervals be afforded an opportunity to demonstrate to the board that he or she can
 3888 resume or begin the practice of chiropractic with reasonable skill and safety to patients.
 3889 (C) For the purposes of this paragraph, the board may, upon reasonable grounds, obtain
 3890 any and all records relating to the mental or physical condition of a licensee or
 3891 applicant, including psychiatric records; and such records shall be admissible in any
 3892 hearing before the board, notwithstanding any privilege under a contrary rule of law or
 3893 statute, including, but not limited to, Code Section ~~24-9-21~~ 24-5-501. Every person
 3894 who shall accept the privilege of practicing chiropractic in this state or who shall file
 3895 an application to practice chiropractic in this state shall be deemed to have given his or
 3896 her consent to the board's obtaining any such records and to have waived all objections
 3897 to the admissibility of such records in any hearing before the board, upon the grounds
 3898 that the same constitutes a privileged communication.
 3899 (D) If any licensee or applicant could, in the absence of this paragraph, invoke a
 3900 privilege to prevent the disclosure of the results of the examination provided for in
 3901 subparagraph (B) of this paragraph or the records relating to the mental or physical
 3902 condition of such licensee or applicant obtained pursuant to subparagraph (C) of this
 3903 paragraph, all such information shall be received by the board in camera and shall not
 3904 be disclosed to the public, nor shall any part of the record containing such information
 3905 be used against any licensee or applicant in any other type of proceeding."

3906 **SECTION 67.**

3907 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 43-11-12, relating to public inspection
 3908 of the Georgia Board of Dentistry's records, as follows:

3909 "43-11-12.

3910 It shall be the duty of the division director to keep at his or her office the minutes of the
 3911 board, together with all the books and records of the board, which books and records shall,
 3912 except as provided in subsection (k) of Code Section 43-1-2, be public records open to
 3913 inspection by the public except on Sundays and legal holidays. ~~A copy of all or any part~~

3914 ~~of any record or book certified by the division director, with the seal of the board attached,~~
 3915 ~~shall be primary evidence in any court, and it shall be the duty of the division director to~~
 3916 ~~furnish to any person making application therefor a copy of any part or all of any record~~
 3917 ~~or book of the board upon the applicant's paying a fee prescribed by the division director.~~
 3918 ~~All of such copies shall be certified by the division director and be under the seal of the~~
 3919 ~~board."~~

3920

SECTION 68.

3921 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 43-18-8, relating to official records
 3922 and affidavits of the State Board of Registration for Professional Geologists as evidence, as
 3923 follows:

3924 "43-19-8.

3925 ~~All official records of the board, or affidavits by the division director as to the content of~~
 3926 ~~such records, shall be prima-facie evidence of all matters required to be kept therein~~
 3927 Reserved."

3928

SECTION 69.

3929 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 43-23-3, relating to the seal of the
 3930 Georgia Board of Landscape Architects and copies of records and papers as evidence, as
 3931 follows:

3932 "43-23-3.

3933 (a) The board shall adopt a seal, which may be either an engraved or an ink stamped seal,
 3934 with the words 'Board of Landscape Architects, State of Georgia' or such other device as
 3935 the board may desire included thereon, by which it shall authenticate the acts of the board.

3936 ~~(b) Copies of all records and papers in the office of the board, certified by the signature~~
 3937 ~~of the chairman of the board, shall be received in evidence in all cases equally and with like~~
 3938 ~~effect as the originals."~~

3939

SECTION 70.

3940 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 43-28-6, relating to service of process
 3941 and documents on division director and records of the State Board of Occupational Therapy
 3942 as prima-facie evidence, as follows:

3943 "43-28-6.

3944 (a) All legal process and all documents required by law to be served upon or filed with the
 3945 board shall be served upon or filed with the division director at his or her office.

3946 ~~(b) All official records of the board or affidavits by the division director certifying the~~
 3947 ~~content of such records shall be prima-facie evidence of all matters required to be kept~~
 3948 ~~therein."~~

3949 **SECTION 71.**

3950 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 43-29-4, relating to the State Board
 3951 of Dispensing Opticians' records and seal, as follows:

3952 "43-29-4.

3953 (a) The board shall have an official seal and shall keep a record of its proceedings and a
 3954 register of persons whose licenses have been revoked.

3955 (b) The records of the board shall be open to public inspection, and it shall keep on file all
 3956 examination papers for a period of 90 days after each examination. ~~A transcript of an entry~~
 3957 ~~in such records, certified by the division director under the seal of the board, shall be~~
 3958 ~~evidence of the facts stated therein."~~

3959 **SECTION 72.**

3960 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 43-33-9, relating to the State Board
 3961 of Physical Therapy's records as prima-facie evidence, as follows:

3962 "43-33-9.

3963 The division director shall be secretary of the board and shall perform such other
 3964 administrative duties as may be prescribed by the board. In a contested case, the division
 3965 director on behalf of the board shall have the power to subpoena, throughout ~~the~~ this state,
 3966 witnesses, designated documents, papers, books, accounts, letters, photographs, objects,
 3967 or other tangible things. All legal process and all documents required by law to be served
 3968 upon or filed with the board shall be served upon or filed with the division director at his
 3969 or her office. ~~All official records of the board or affidavits by the division director~~
 3970 ~~certifying the content of such records shall be prima-facie evidence of all matters required~~
 3971 ~~to be kept therein."~~

3972 **SECTION 73.**

3973 Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Code Section
 3974 43-33-18, relating to refusal to grant or restore licenses, as follows:

3975 "(2) Displayed an inability or has become unable to practice as a physical therapist or as
 3976 a physical therapist assistant with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of
 3977 illness, use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics, chemicals, or any other type of material, or as a
 3978 result of any mental or physical condition:

3979 (A) In enforcing this paragraph the board may, upon reasonable grounds, require a
3980 licensee or applicant to submit to a mental or physical examination by an appropriate
3981 practitioner of the healing arts designated by the board. The expense of such mental or
3982 physical examination shall be borne by the licensee or applicant. The results of such
3983 examination shall be admissible in any hearing before the board, notwithstanding any
3984 claim of privilege under a contrary rule of law or statute, including, but not limited to
3985 Code Section ~~24-9-21~~ 24-5-501. Every person who shall accept the privilege of
3986 practicing physical therapy in this state or who shall file an application for a license to
3987 practice physical therapy in this state shall be deemed to have given his or her consent
3988 to submit to such mental or physical examination and to have waived all objections to
3989 the admissibility of the results in any hearing before the board upon the grounds that
3990 the same constitutes a privileged communication. If a licensee or applicant fails to
3991 submit to such an examination when properly directed to do so by the board, unless
3992 such failure was due to circumstances beyond his or her control, the board may enter
3993 a final order upon proper notice, hearing, and proof of such refusal. Any licensee or
3994 applicant who is prohibited from practicing physical therapy under this paragraph shall
3995 at reasonable intervals be afforded an opportunity to demonstrate to the board that he
3996 or she can resume or begin the practice of physical therapy with reasonable skill and
3997 safety to patients;

3998 (B) For the purposes of this paragraph, the board may, upon reasonable grounds, obtain
3999 any and all records relating to the mental or physical condition of a licensee or
4000 applicant, including psychiatric records; and such records shall be admissible in any
4001 hearing before the board, notwithstanding any privilege under a contrary rule of law or
4002 statute, including, but not limited to, Code Section ~~24-9-21~~ 24-5-501. Every person
4003 who shall accept the privilege of practicing physical therapy in this state or who shall
4004 file an application to practice physical therapy in this state shall be deemed to have
4005 given his or her consent to the board's obtaining any such records and to have waived
4006 all objections to the admissibility of such records in any hearing before the board upon
4007 the grounds that the same constitute a privileged communication; and

4008 (C) If any licensee or applicant could, in the absence of this paragraph, invoke a
4009 privilege to prevent the disclosure of the results of the examination provided for in
4010 subparagraph (A) of this paragraph or the records relating to the mental or physical
4011 condition of such licensee or applicant obtained pursuant to subparagraph (B) of this
4012 paragraph, all such information shall be received by the board in camera and shall not
4013 be disclosed to the public, nor shall any part of the record containing such information
4014 be used against any licensee or applicant in any other type of proceeding;"

SECTION 74.

4015

4016 Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (13) of subsection (a) of Code Section
 4017 43-34-8, relating to the Georgia Composite Medical Board's authority to refuse license or
 4018 discipline physicians, as follows:

4019 "(13) Become unable to practice pursuant to this chapter with reasonable skill and safety
 4020 to patients by reason of illness or use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics, chemicals, or any other
 4021 type of material, or as a result of any mental or physical condition:

4022 (A) In enforcing this paragraph the board may, upon reasonable grounds, require a
 4023 licensee, certificate holder, permit holder, or applicant to submit to a mental or physical
 4024 examination by physicians designated by the board. The expense of this examination
 4025 shall be borne by the licensee, certificate holder, or permit holder or applicant. The
 4026 results of such examination shall be admissible in any hearing before the board,
 4027 notwithstanding any claim of privilege under a contrary rule of law or statute,
 4028 including, but not limited to, Code Section ~~24-9-21~~ 24-5-501. Every person who shall
 4029 accept the privilege of practicing a profession regulated under this chapter or who shall
 4030 file an application for a license to practice a profession regulated under this chapter in
 4031 this state shall be deemed to have given his or her consent to submit to such mental or
 4032 physical examination and to have waived all objections to the admissibility of the
 4033 results in any hearing before the board, upon the grounds that the same constitutes a
 4034 privileged communication. If a licensee, certificate holder, or permit holder or
 4035 applicant fails to submit to such an examination when properly directed to do so by the
 4036 board, unless such failure was due to circumstances beyond his or her control, the board
 4037 may enter a final order upon proper notice, hearing, and proof of such refusal. Any
 4038 licensee, certificate holder, permit holder, or applicant who is prohibited from
 4039 practicing pursuant to this chapter under this paragraph shall at reasonable intervals be
 4040 afforded an opportunity to demonstrate to the board that he or she can resume or begin
 4041 practice pursuant to this chapter with reasonable skill and safety to patients;

4042 (B) For the purposes of this paragraph, the board and any entity which has entered into
 4043 a contract with the board pursuant to Code Section 43-34-5.1, if specifically provided
 4044 for in such contract, may, upon reasonable grounds, obtain any and all records relating
 4045 to the mental or physical condition of a licensee, certificate holder, or permit holder or
 4046 applicant, including psychiatric records; and such records shall be admissible in any
 4047 hearing before the board, notwithstanding any privilege under a contrary rule of law or
 4048 statute, including, but not limited to, Code Section ~~24-9-21~~ 24-5-501. Every person
 4049 who shall accept the privilege of practicing pursuant to this chapter in this state or who
 4050 shall file an application to practice pursuant to this chapter in this state shall be deemed
 4051 to have given his or her consent to the board's obtaining any such records and to have

4052 waived all objections to the admissibility of such records in any hearing before the
 4053 board, upon the grounds that the same constitute a privileged communication; and
 4054 (C) If any licensee, certificate holder, or permit holder or applicant could, in the
 4055 absence of this paragraph, invoke a privilege to prevent the disclosure of the results of
 4056 the examination provided for in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph or the records
 4057 relating to the mental or physical condition of such licensee, certificate holder, or
 4058 permit holder or applicant obtained pursuant to subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, all
 4059 such information shall be received by the board in camera and shall not be disclosed to
 4060 the public, nor shall any part of the record containing such information be used against
 4061 any licensee, certificate holder, or permit holder or applicant in any other type of
 4062 proceeding;"

4063 **SECTION 75.**

4064 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 43-40-6, relating to
 4065 the seal and records of the Georgia Real Estate Commission, as follows:

4066 "(a) The commission shall adopt a seal, which may be either an engraved or ink stamp seal,
 4067 with the words 'State Real Estate Commission, State of Georgia,' and such other device as
 4068 the commission may desire included thereon, by which it shall authenticate the acts of the
 4069 commission. ~~Copies of all records and papers in the office of the commission, certified by~~
 4070 ~~the signature of the real estate commissioner or the commissioner's designee and the seal~~
 4071 ~~of the commission, shall be received in evidence in all cases equally and with like effect~~
 4072 ~~as the originals."~~

4073 **SECTION 76.**

4074 Title 44 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to property, is amended by
 4075 revising Code Section 44-2-5, relating to recording execution and deed after sheriff's sale and
 4076 evidence of execution where original is lost, as follows:

4077 "44-2-5.

4078 A purchaser at a sheriff's sale may have the execution under which the property was sold
 4079 recorded with his or her deed together with all the entries on the execution. ~~In the event~~
 4080 ~~of the loss or destruction of the original execution, a copy of the record shall be admitted~~
 4081 ~~in evidence."~~

4082 **SECTION 77.**

4083 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 44-2-20, relating to recorded affidavits
 4084 relating to land as notice of facts cited therein and the admissibility of such affidavits in
 4085 evidence, as follows:

4086 "44-2-20.

4087 (a) Recorded affidavits shall be notice of the facts therein recited, whether taken at the
4088 time of a conveyance of land or not, where such affidavits show:

4089 (1) The relationship of parties or other persons to conveyances of land;

4090 (2) The relationship of any parties to any conveyance with other parties whose names are
4091 shown in the chain of title to lands;

4092 (3) The age or ages of any person or persons connected with the chain of title;

4093 (4) Whether the land embraced in any conveyance or any part of such land or right
4094 therein has been in the actual possession of any party or parties connected with the chain
4095 of title;

4096 (5) The payment of debts of an unadministered estate;

4097 (6) The fact or date of death of any person connected with such title;

4098 (7) Where such affidavits relate to the identity of parties whose names may be shown
4099 differently in chains of title;

4100 (8) Where such affidavits show the ownership or adverse possession of lands or that
4101 other persons have not owned such lands nor been in possession of same; or

4102 (9) Where such affidavits state any other fact or circumstance affecting title to land or
4103 any right, title, interest in, or lien or encumbrance upon land.

4104 Any such affidavits may be made by any person, whether connected with the chain of title
4105 or not.

4106 ~~(b) In any litigation over any of the lands referred to and described in any of the affidavits~~
4107 ~~referred to in subsection (a) of this Code section in any court in this state or in any~~
4108 ~~proceedings in any such court involving the title to such lands wherein the facts recited in~~
4109 ~~such affidavits may be material, the affidavits or certified copies of the record thereof shall~~
4110 ~~be admissible in evidence and there shall be a rebuttable presumption that the statements~~
4111 ~~in said affidavits are true. The affidavits or certified copies thereof shall only be admissible~~
4112 ~~as evidence in the event the parties making the affidavits are deceased; they are~~
4113 ~~nonresidents of the state; their residences are unknown to the parties offering the affidavits;~~
4114 ~~or they are too old, infirm, or sick to attend court~~ Reserved.

4115 (c) Affidavits referred to in ~~subsections~~ subsection (a) ~~and (b)~~ of this Code section shall
4116 be filed by the clerk of the superior court of the county where the land is located and shall
4117 contain a caption referring to the current owner and to a deed or other recorded instrument
4118 in the chain of title of the affected land. The clerk of the superior court shall record such
4119 affidavits, shall enter on the deed or other recorded instrument so referred to the book and
4120 page number on which such affidavit may be recorded, and shall index same in the name
4121 of the purported owner as shown by such caption in both grantor and grantee indexes in

4122 deed records as conveyances of lands are recorded and indexed; and ~~he~~ the clerk shall
 4123 receive the same compensation therefor as for recording deeds to lands."

4124 **SECTION 78.**

4125 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 44-2-23, relating to when deed serves
 4126 as evidence, as follows:

4127 "44-2-23.

4128 ~~A recorded deed shall be admitted in evidence in any court without further proof unless the~~
 4129 ~~maker of the deed, one of his heirs, or the opposite party in the action files an affidavit that~~
 4130 ~~the deed is a forgery to the best of his knowledge and belief. Upon the filing of the~~
 4131 ~~affidavit, the genuineness of the alleged deed shall become an issue to be determined in the~~
 4132 ~~action~~ Reserved."

4133 **SECTION 79.**

4134 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 44-2-101, relating to referral of case
 4135 to examiner, as follows:

4136 "44-2-101.

4137 Upon the filing of a petition as provided in this article, the clerk shall at once notify the
 4138 judge who shall refer the action to one of the general examiners or to a special examiner.
 4139 It shall then become the duty of the examiner to make up a preliminary report containing
 4140 an abstract of the title to the land from public records and all other evidence of a
 4141 trustworthy nature that can reasonably be obtained by ~~him~~ the examiner, which abstract
 4142 shall contain:

- 4143 (1) Extracts from the records and other matters referred to therein which are complete
 4144 enough to enable the court to decide the questions involved;
 4145 (2) A statement of the facts relating to the possession of the lands; and
 4146 (3) The names and addresses, so far as the examiner is able to ascertain, of all persons
 4147 interested in the land as well as all adjoining owners showing their several apparent or
 4148 possible interests and indicating upon whom and in what manner process should be
 4149 served or notices given in accordance with this article.

4150 The preliminary report of the examiner shall be filed in the office of the clerk of the
 4151 superior court on or before the return day of the court as stated in the process unless the
 4152 time for filing the report is extended by the court. ~~The report shall be prima-facie evidence~~
 4153 ~~of the contents thereof."~~

4154 **SECTION 80.**

4155 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 44-4-3, relating to the duty of
4156 surveyors and processioners, as follows:

4157 "44-4-3.

4158 It shall be the duty of the county surveyor and the processioners to take all due precautions
4159 to arrive at the true lines and to trace out and plainly mark the same. The surveyor shall
4160 make out and certify a plat of the true lines and deliver a copy thereof to the applicant; and,
4161 in all future boundary disputes with any owner of adjoining lands who had due notice of
4162 the processioning, the certified plat and the lines so marked shall be prima facie correct;
4163 ~~and the certified plat shall be admissible in evidence without further proof."~~

4164 **SECTION 81.**

4165 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 44-4-6, relating to general reputation
4166 as evidence, as follows:

4167 "44-4-6.

4168 ~~General reputation in the neighborhood shall be evidence as to ancient landmarks of more~~
4169 ~~than 30 years' standing.~~ Acquiescence for seven years by acts or declarations of adjoining
4170 landowners shall establish a dividing line."

4171 **SECTION 82.**

4172 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 44-5-45, relating to when ancient deed
4173 admissible without proof of execution, as follows:

4174 "44-5-45.

4175 ~~A deed more than 30 years old which, upon inspection, has the appearance of genuineness~~
4176 ~~and which comes from the proper custody is admissible in evidence without proof of~~
4177 ~~execution if possession of the property has been consistent with such deed~~ Reserved."

4178 **SECTION 83.**

4179 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 44-13-11, relating to approval of
4180 application and transmittal of copy of exempted real property to other counties, as follows:

4181 "44-13-11.

4182 If, at the time and place appointed for passing upon the application, no objection is raised
4183 by any creditor of the applicant, the judge of the probate court shall endorse upon the
4184 schedule and upon the plat: 'Approved this the ____ day of _____, _____,' filling the
4185 blanks, and shall sign the schedule and plat officially and hand ~~them~~ such application to the
4186 clerk of the superior court of ~~his~~ the clerk's county; and, when land out of ~~his~~ the clerk's
4187 county is exempted, the judge shall transmit a certified copy of the exempted real property

4188 to the clerk of the superior court of each county in which exempted land is located. Each
 4189 clerk of the superior court of a county in which exempted land is located shall record the
 4190 exempted real property in a book to be kept for that purpose in his office, which record or
 4191 a certified transcript thereof shall be competent evidence in all the courts of this state."

4192 **SECTION 84.**

4193 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 44-14-38, relating to admission of
 4194 mortgages into evidence, as follows:

4195 "44-14-38.

4196 ~~When duly executed and recorded, mortgages shall be admitted into evidence under the~~
 4197 ~~same rules as recorded deeds~~ Reserved."

4198 **SECTION 85.**

4199 Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to public officers and employees,
 4200 is amended by revising Code Section 45-9-1, relating to general provisions and disclosure
 4201 or insurance or indemnification in legal actions, as follows:

4202 "45-9-1.

4203 (a) In addition to any other compensation which may be paid to an officer, official, or
 4204 employee of any agency, board, bureau, commission, department, or authority of the
 4205 executive, judicial, or legislative branch of government of this state, each such agency,
 4206 board, bureau, commission, department, or authority is authorized, in its discretion, to
 4207 purchase policies of liability insurance or contracts of indemnity or to formulate sound
 4208 programs of self-insurance utilizing funds available to such agency, board, bureau,
 4209 commission, department, or authority, insuring or indemnifying such officers, officials, or
 4210 employees to the extent that they are not immune from liability against personal liability
 4211 for damages arising out of the performance of their duties or in any way connected
 4212 therewith. Such policies of liability insurance, contracts of indemnity, or programs of
 4213 self-insurance may also provide for reimbursement to an officer, official, or employee of
 4214 any agency, board, bureau, commission, department, or authority of ~~the~~ this state for
 4215 reasonable legal fees and other expenses incurred in the successful defense of any criminal
 4216 proceeding, including, but not limited to, any criminal cause of action, suit, investigation,
 4217 subpoena, warrant, request for documentation or property, or threat of such action whether
 4218 formal or informal where such action arises out of the performance of his or her official
 4219 duties. In addition, in the case of an officer, official, or employee who is required to
 4220 maintain a professional license, such reimbursement may also be provided for legal fees
 4221 and other expenses so incurred in the successful defense of a charge arising out of the
 4222 performance of his or her official duties in proceedings before a professional licensing

4223 board, disciplinary board or commission, or other similar body. Legal fees and other
4224 expenses shall be subject to adjustment by and the approval of the Attorney General.

4225 (b) Such agencies, boards, bureaus, commissions, departments, or authorities may expend
4226 federal and state or other available funds for such purposes. The amount of such insurance
4227 or indemnity shall also be in the discretion of such agency, board, bureau, commission,
4228 department, or authority.

4229 (c) For the purpose of this article, the term 'agency' shall specifically include, but shall not
4230 be limited to, public retirement systems of state-wide application established by the laws
4231 of this state, but shall not include counties or municipalities; provided, however, that the
4232 employees of community service boards, county departments of health, and county
4233 departments of family and children services as well as the members of the boards of said
4234 departments shall be considered to be state employees or officials for the purpose of this
4235 article. In order to facilitate the administration of liability coverage or other insurance
4236 coverages provided the community service boards, the Department of Behavioral Health
4237 and Developmental Disabilities shall designate a central office which shall be responsible
4238 for obtaining, submitting, and collecting all underwriting information and insurance
4239 premiums requested and assessed by the Department of Administrative Services. In order
4240 to facilitate the administration of liability coverage or other insurance coverages provided
4241 county departments of family and children services, the Department of Human Services
4242 shall designate a central office which shall be responsible for obtaining, submitting, and
4243 collecting all underwriting information and insurance premiums requested and assessed by
4244 the Department of Administrative Services. In order to facilitate the administration of
4245 liability coverage or other insurance coverages provided county departments of health, the
4246 Department of Community Health shall designate a central office which shall be
4247 responsible for obtaining, submitting, and collecting all underwriting information and
4248 insurance premiums requested and assessed by the Department of Administrative Services.
4249 ~~(d) The existence of such insurance or indemnification shall not be disclosed or suggested~~
4250 ~~in any action brought against such individual."~~

4251 **SECTION 86.**

4252 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 45-9-20, relating to authorization of
4253 purchase of insurance, as follows:

4254 "45-9-20.

4255 In addition to any other compensation which may be paid to members of the governing
4256 bodies of municipalities, counties, and other public bodies, and to supervisors,
4257 administrators, employees, or other elected or appointed public officers, each municipality,
4258 county, and other public body of this state is authorized, in its discretion, to purchase

4259 policies of liability insurance or contracts of indemnity insuring or indemnifying the
 4260 members of such governing bodies and such supervisors, administrators, employees, or
 4261 other elected or appointed officers against personal liability for damages arising out of the
 4262 performance of their duties or in any way connected therewith, whether based upon
 4263 negligence, violation of contract rights, or violation of civil, constitutional, common law,
 4264 or other statutory rights, whether state, federal, or local. Such municipalities, counties, and
 4265 other public bodies may expend state, federal, and local funds for such purposes. The
 4266 amount of such insurance or indemnity shall also be in the discretion of the governing body
 4267 of such municipality, county, or other public body. No action shall be maintained against
 4268 the person or company issuing such insurance or contracting for such indemnity until final
 4269 judgment has first been entered against the individual covered by such policy or contract;
 4270 ~~and the existence of such insurance or indemnity shall not be disclosed or suggested in any~~
 4271 ~~action brought against such individual."~~

4272 **SECTION 87.**

4273 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 45-14-5, relating to the Commissioner
 4274 of Insurance, Safety Fire Commissioner, Industrial Loan Commissioner, and the Comptroller
 4275 General's seal and sealed copies treated as originals, as follows:

4276 "45-14-5.

4277 The Commissioner of Insurance, Safety Fire Commissioner, Industrial Loan
 4278 Commissioner, and the Comptroller General shall have an official seal for each office of
 4279 such design as he or she shall select with the approval of the Governor. ~~Every certificate~~
 4280 ~~and other document or paper executed by the Commissioner of Insurance, Safety Fire~~
 4281 ~~Commissioner, Industrial Loan Commissioner, or the Comptroller General in the pursuance~~
 4282 ~~of any authority conferred upon that office by law and sealed with the seal of that office~~
 4283 ~~and all copies or photographic copies of papers certified by him and authenticated by said~~
 4284 ~~seal shall in all cases be evidence 'in equal and like manner' as the original thereof and in~~
 4285 ~~all cases be primary evidence of the contents of the original and shall be admissible in any~~
 4286 ~~court in this state."~~

4287 **SECTION 88.**

4288 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 45-16-43, relating to receipt as
 4289 evidence of records, findings, and reports of medical examiners' inquiries, as follows:

4290 "45-16-43.

4291 ~~Reports of medical examiners' inquiries performed as provided in this article and copies~~
 4292 ~~of records, photographs, laboratory findings, and reports in the office of the director of the~~
 4293 ~~division, when duly attested by said director, shall be received as evidence in any court or~~

4294 ~~other proceeding for any purpose for which the original could be received without any~~
 4295 ~~proof of the official character of the person whose name is signed thereto Reserved.~~"

4296 **SECTION 89.**

4297 Title 46 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to public utilities and public
 4298 transportation, is amended by revising Code Section 46-2-53, relating to reports, rate
 4299 schedules, orders, rules, or regulations of commission as admissible evidence in court
 4300 proceedings, as follows:

4301 "46-2-53.

4302 ~~The printed reports of the commission, published by its authority, shall be admissible as~~
 4303 ~~evidence in any court in this state without further proof. The schedules of rates made by~~
 4304 ~~the commission, and any order passed or rule or regulation prescribed by the commission,~~
 4305 ~~shall be admissible in evidence in any court in this state upon the certificate of the secretary~~
 4306 ~~of the commission Reserved.~~"

4307 **SECTION 90.**

4308 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 46-3-175, relating to receipt of
 4309 certificates and certified copies in evidence, as follows:

4310 "46-3-175.

4311 ~~(a) All certificates issued by the Secretary of State in accordance with this article and all~~
 4312 ~~copies of documents filed in his office in accordance with this article, when certified by~~
 4313 ~~him, shall be taken and received in all courts, public offices, and official bodies as~~
 4314 ~~prima-facie evidence of the facts stated therein. A certificate by the Secretary of State~~
 4315 ~~under the seal of his office as to the existence or nonexistence of facts relating to electric~~
 4316 ~~membership corporations or foreign electric cooperatives shall be taken and received in all~~
 4317 ~~courts, public offices, and official bodies as prima-facie evidence of the existence or~~
 4318 ~~nonexistence of the facts stated therein.~~

4319 ~~(b) The Secretary of State, at any time, upon the request of any person, shall make and~~
 4320 ~~certify additional copies of any document filed with his or her office and of the certificate,~~
 4321 ~~if any, issued by the Secretary of State in connection with the filing of the document, under~~
 4322 ~~this article, upon payment to him the Secretary of State of the fee provided for in Code~~
 4323 ~~Section 46-3-502."~~

4324 **SECTION 91.**

4325 Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to revenue and taxation, is
 4326 amended by revising Code Section 48-2-14, relating to the state revenue commissioner's
 4327 official seal, as follows:

4328 "48-2-14.
 4329 The commissioner shall have an official seal of such device as he or she shall select,
 4330 subject to the approval of the Governor. ~~Any certificate or other legal document or paper~~
 4331 ~~executed by the commissioner in the exercise of any authority conferred upon him by law,~~
 4332 ~~which paper is sealed with the seal of his office, and all copies or photographic copies of~~
 4333 ~~papers certified by him and authenticated by the seal shall be evidence equally in all cases~~
 4334 ~~and, in like manner as the original of the document or paper, shall be primary evidence in~~
 4335 ~~all cases of the contents of the original, and shall be admissible in any court in this state."~~

4336 **SECTION 92.**

4337 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (d) of Code Section 48-5-138, relating
 4338 to the cashbook to be kept by tax collectors and tax commissioners, as follows:

4339 "(d) The tax collector or tax commissioner shall make and file an accounting as required
 4340 by Code Section 48-5-154. The record book shall be preserved by the tax collector or tax
 4341 commissioner in the tax collector's or tax commissioner's office. ~~The record book or a~~
 4342 ~~transcript of the record book, when properly authenticated, shall be admitted in evidence~~
 4343 ~~in courts of this state as evidence of the payment of taxes.~~ The commissioner shall furnish
 4344 the tax collectors and tax commissioners the book required pursuant to this Code section
 4345 at the state's expense."

4346 **SECTION 93.**

4347 Code Section 49-5-183.1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to notice to
 4348 alleged child abuser of classification and procedure, is amended by revising subsection (i)
 4349 as follows:

4350 "(i) No child under the age of 14 shall be compelled to appear to testify at any hearing held
 4351 pursuant to this Code section. If a child under the age of 14 testifies voluntarily, such
 4352 testimony shall be given in compliance with procedures analogous to those contained in
 4353 Code Section 17-8-55. Nothing in this article shall prohibit introducing a child's statement
 4354 in a hearing held pursuant to this Code section if the statement meets the criteria of Code
 4355 Section ~~24-3-16~~ 24-8-820."

4356 **SECTION 94.**

4357 Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state government, is amended
 4358 by revising Code Section 50-5A-4, relating to bond to be recorded and filed and certified
 4359 copy is admissible in evidence, as follows:

4360 "50-5A-4.

4361 The bond of the state treasurer, when duly executed and approved, shall be recorded in the
 4362 Secretary of State's office and filed in the office of the Governor. ~~A copy of the bond,
 4363 when certified by one of the Governor's secretaries under the seal of the office of the
 4364 Governor, or a certified copy taken from the records of the Secretary of State's office shall
 4365 be received in evidence in any court in lieu of the original."~~

4366 **SECTION 95.**

4367 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 50-18-96, relating to copies of records
 4368 as primary evidence, as follows:

4369 "50-18-96.

4370 ~~Photostatic copies of records produced from microfilm and print-out copies of computer
 4371 records shall be received in any court of this state as primary evidence of the recitals
 4372 contained therein Reserved."~~

4373 **SECTION 96.**

4374 Code Section 52-6-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to keeping of
 4375 records by the Board of Pilotage Commissioners, is amended as follows:

4376 "52-6-8.

4377 The commissioners shall preserve in a neatly bound book a record of all their acts and of
 4378 all the rules and regulations adopted by them for the direction and government of pilots.
 4379 The commissioners ~~They~~ shall designate one of their number as ~~chairman~~ chairperson and
 4380 cause a record thereof to be made. The commissioners ~~They~~ shall also preserve upon their
 4381 records a list of the names of all persons appointed pilots by them, as well as a list of the
 4382 names of those whose licenses have been suspended or revoked or who have been retired.
 4383 All persons interested shall have access to and be permitted to have ~~copies~~ duplicates of
 4384 the such records; ~~and copies thereof certified by the chairman or secretary shall be
 4385 presumptive evidence of the facts therein stated."~~

4386 **SECTION 97.**

4387 Title 53 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to wills, trusts, and estates, is
 4388 amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 53-5-33, relating to requisites for
 4389 admission to ancillary probate, as follows:

4390 "(b) For purposes of ancillary probate of out-of-state wills, when the out-of-state will has
 4391 been admitted to probate or established in the domiciliary jurisdiction, the will may be
 4392 admitted to ancillary probate in solemn form upon production of a properly certified copy
 4393 of the will and a properly authenticated copy of the final proceedings in the jurisdiction in

4394 which the will was probated or established, certified according to Code Section ~~24-7-24~~
 4395 24-9-922, and may be attacked or resisted on the same grounds as other judicial
 4396 proceedings from a state of the United States."

4397 **SECTION 98.**

4398 Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of Code Section
 4399 53-5-35, relating to muniments of title to realty, as follows:

4400 "(1) Such a will is accompanied by properly authenticated copies of the record admitting
 4401 the will to probate in another state, certified according to Code Section ~~24-7-24~~ 24-9-922;
 4402 and"

4403 **SECTION 99.**

4404 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 53-5-43, relating to evidence of
 4405 authority, as follows:

4406 "53-5-43.

4407 A copy of letters, or like documentation authenticated in accordance with Code Section
 4408 ~~24-7-24~~ 24-9-922, evidencing the qualification of the personal representative of the
 4409 decedent who died domiciled outside this state, shall constitute prima-facie evidence of the
 4410 authority of the personal representative to act in this state. Whenever a personal
 4411 representative shall execute and deliver any deed of assent or conveyance with respect to
 4412 real property located within this state, the personal representative shall attach to such deed
 4413 as an exhibit the authenticated copy of the letters, and a certified copy of the will in the
 4414 case of a testate decedent. The clerks of the superior courts of this state shall not be
 4415 authorized to accept for filing and recording any deed given by such personal
 4416 representative that does not conform to the foregoing requirements. Unless a third party
 4417 has actual knowledge of the existence or pendency of ancillary probate or administration
 4418 with respect to the decedent within this state, the third party who is dealing with the
 4419 personal representative in reliance on the personal representative's letters and, in the case
 4420 of a testate decedent, the out-of-state or foreign will, shall be fully protected."

4421 **SECTION 100.**

4422 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 53-11-11, relating to authentication
 4423 or exemplification of document, as follows:

4424 "53-11-11.

4425 Whenever it is required that a document to be filed in the probate court be authenticated
 4426 or exemplified, such requirement shall be met by complying with the provisions of Code

4427 Section ~~24-7-24~~ 24-7-922 and such full faith and credit shall be given to the document as
4428 is provided in that Code section."

4429 **SECTION 101.**

4430 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2013, and shall apply to any motion made or
4431 hearing or trial commenced on or after such date.

4432 **SECTION 102.**

4433 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.