12 LC 35 2359

House Bill 717

By: Representatives Houston of the 170th, Carter of the 175th, Purcell of the 159th, and Meadows of the 5th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

- 1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 8 of Title 4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
- 2 relating to dangerous dog control, so as to provide for criminal penalties for certain owners
- 3 who fail to secure their dog resulting in the dog inflicting severe injury or death on a human
- 4 being; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date and applicability; to
- 5 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 SECTION 1.

- 8 Article 2 of Chapter 8 of Title 4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
- 9 dangerous dog control, is amended by inserting a new Code section to read as follows:
- 10 "<u>4-8-31.</u>
- 11 <u>If any owner negligently or intentionally fails to secure a dangerous dog or potentially</u>
- dangerous dog and such failure results in the dog attacking another human being causing
- 13 severe injury or death such owner shall be guilty of the offense of failure to secure a
- dangerous dog and upon conviction therefore shall be guilty of a felony and punished by
- imprisonment for not less than one nor more than three years or a fine of not more than
- 16 \$20,000.00, or both."

17 **SECTION 2.**

- 18 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2012, and shall apply to offenses committed on
- 19 and after such date.

20 SECTION 3.

21 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.