

House Bill 687 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Taylor of the 79th, Riley of the 50th, Cooke of the 18th, and Atwood of the 179th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 1 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 general provisions for law enforcement officers and agencies, so as to require persons and
3 companies licensed to provide alarm monitoring services to utilize alarm verification in order
4 to preserve valuable municipal and county law enforcement and firefighter resources; to
5 provide for exceptions; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal
6 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 1 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general
10 provisions for law enforcement officers and agencies, is amended by revising Code Section
11 35-1-9, which is reserved, as follows:

12 "35-1-9.

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

14 (1) 'Alarm monitoring company' means any person, company, corporation, partnership,
15 business, or a representative or agency thereof authorized to provide alarm monitoring
16 services for burglar alarm systems, fire alarm systems, or other similar electronic security
17 systems whether such systems are maintained on commercial business property, public
18 property, or individual residential property.

19 (2) 'Alarm verification' means a reasonable attempt by an alarm monitoring company to
20 contact the alarm site or alarm user, by telephone or other electronic means, to determine
21 whether a burglar alarm signal is valid prior to requesting law enforcement to be
22 dispatched to the location and, where the initial attempted contact cannot be made, a
23 second reasonable attempt to make such contact utilizing a different telephone number
24 or electronic address or number.

25 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this Code section, an alarm monitoring
26 company shall utilize an alarm verification system for all alarm signals.

27 (c) Alarm verification shall not be required in the case of a fire alarm or a panic or
28 robbery-in-progress alarm or in cases where a crime-in-progress has been verified to be
29 true by video or audible means. Reserved."

30 **SECTION 2.**

31 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2012.

32 **SECTION 3.**

33 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.