

House Bill 541 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Epps of the 140th, Benton of the 31st, Baker of the 78th, Allison of the 8th,
Weldon of the 3rd, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 5 of Chapter 10 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to offenses related to judicial and other proceedings, so as to prohibit intimidation
3 of law enforcement officers in retaliation for the officer's actions of carrying out his or her
4 official duties; to provide for penalties; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
5 laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

8 Article 5 of Chapter 10 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
9 offenses related to judicial and other proceedings, is amended by revising Code Section
10 16-10-97, relating to intimidation or injury of grand or trial juror or court officer, as follows:
11 "16-10-97.

12 (a) A person who by threat or force or by any threatening action, letter, or communication:

13 (1) Endeavors to intimidate or impede any grand juror or trial juror or any officer in or
14 of any court of this state or any court of any county or municipality of this state or any
15 officer who may be serving at any proceeding in any such court while in the discharge
16 of such juror's or officer's duties;

17 (2) Injures any grand juror or trial juror in his or her person or property on account of
18 any indictment or verdict assented to by him or her or on account of his or her being or
19 having been such juror; or

20 (3) Injures any officer in or of any court of this state or any court of any county or
21 municipality of this state or any officer who may be serving at any proceeding in any
22 such court in his or her person or property on account of the performance of his or her
23 official duties

24 shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine of not more than \$5,000.00 or by
25 imprisonment for not more than 20 years, or both.

26 (b) As used in this Code section, the term 'any officer in or of any court' means a judge,
27 attorney, clerk of court, deputy clerk of court, court reporter, or probation officer.

28 (c) A person who by threat or force or by any threatening action, letter, or communication
29 endeavors to intimidate any law enforcement officer, outside the scope and course of his
30 or her employment, or his or her immediate family member in retaliation or response to the
31 discharge of such officer's official duties shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction
32 thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than five years,
33 a fine not to exceed \$5,000.00, or both."

34 **SECTION 2.**

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