

House Bill 146

By: Representatives Weldon of the 3rd, Willard of the 51st, and Mabra of the 63rd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 17 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to criminal procedure,
2 so as to change provisions relating to the issuance of arrest and search warrants by video
3 conference; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

6 Title 17 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to criminal procedure, is
7 amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 17-4-47, relating to issuance of warrants
8 by video conference, as follows:

9 "(a) A judge of any court in this state authorized to issue arrest warrants pursuant to Code
10 Section 17-4-40 may, as an alternative to other laws relating to the issuance of arrest
11 warrants, conduct such applications for the issuance of arrest warrants by video conference.
12 The issuance of an arrest warrant by video conference shall be valid irrespective of the
13 physical location of the judge at the time of the video conference, provided that the judge
14 issuing the warrant is authorized by law to issue such warrant, and, at the time such warrant
15 is issued, he or she is physically located within this state."

16 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

17 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 17-5-21.1, relating
18 to issuance of search warrants by video conference, as follows:

19 "(a) A judge of any court in this state authorized to issue search warrants pursuant to Code
20 Section 17-5-21 may, as an alternative to other laws relating to the issuance of search
21 warrants, conduct such applications for the issuance of search warrants by video
22 conference. The issuance of a search warrant by video conference shall be valid
23 irrespective of the physical location of the judge at the time of the video conference,
24 provided that the judge issuing the warrant is authorized by law to issue such warrant, and,
25 at the time such warrant is issued, he or she is physically located within this state."

26

SECTION 3.

27 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.