

House Bill 501

By: Representatives Williams of the 168th, Epps of the 144th, Bryant of the 162nd, Roberts of the 155th, Jackson of the 128th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 6 of Title 32 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to general provisions regarding the maintenance of public roads, so as to require the
3 Department of Transportation to remove all trees in the public right of way that are capable
4 of falling on an interstate or limited-access highway; to provide for the department to
5 designate the removal of trees by a third party after a competitive bidding process; to provide
6 for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

9 Article 1 of Chapter 6 of Title 32 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
10 general provisions regarding the maintenance of public roads, is amended by adding a new
11 Code section to read as follows:

12 "32-6-6.

13 (a) The General Assembly recognizes that traffic often moves at speeds in excess of 55
14 miles per hour when traveling on interstates or limited-access roads in this state. In order
15 to protect the safety of the traveling public from hazardous conditions caused by fallen
16 trees on roadways, all trees located in the public right of way that are capable of falling
17 onto any portion of the main traveled way of an interstate or limited-access highway in this
18 state shall be removed by the department or a third party designated by the department.

19 (b) After a determination by the department or a third party designated by the department
20 that a tree on the public right of way is as close to the main traveled way of an interstate
21 or limited-access highway as it is tall, the department shall take action to remove the tree
22 as soon as practicable.

23 (c) The department may designate a third party to remove a tree as described in
24 subsection (b) of this Code section after utilizing a competitive bidding process. Such bids
25 shall include consideration of the appraised value of the tree to be removed and the resale
26 value such tree may have as timber."

27

SECTION 2.

28 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.