

Senate Bill 381

By: Senators Beach of the 21st, Staton of the 18th and Albers of the 56th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 38-3-57 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 establishment of a standardized, verifiable, performance based unified incident command
3 system for emergencies, so as to provide planning for first informer broadcasters in the
4 unified incident command system and the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan; to provide
5 a short title; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
6 laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Georgia First Informer Broadcasters Act."

10 **SECTION 2.**

11 Code Section 38-3-57 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
12 establishment of a standardized, verifiable, performance based unified incident command
13 system for emergencies, is amended by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

14 "(f)(1) As used in this subsection, the term:

15 (A) 'Broadcaster' means any corporation or other entity that is primarily engaged in the
16 business of broadcasting video or audio programming, whether through the public
17 airwaves, cable, direct or indirect satellite transmission, or any other similar means of
18 communication.

19 (B) 'Emergency' means the declaration of a state of emergency or disaster as provided
20 in Code Section 38-3-51 or as presidentially declared.

21 (C) 'First informer broadcaster' means a broadcaster in Georgia who makes application
22 to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency for designation as a first informer
23 broadcaster and who is granted such designation as a first informer broadcaster
24 pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the director of emergency
25 management.

26 (2) The unified incident command system and the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan
27 shall, by July 1, 2016, establish planning for first informer broadcasters such that first
28 informer broadcasters, to any extent practicable, may during an emergency:

29 (A) Have access to areas affected by an emergency for the purpose of restoring,
30 repairing, or resupplying any facility or equipment critical to the ability of a broadcaster
31 to acquire, produce, or transmit emergency related programming, including but not
32 limited to repairing and maintaining transmitters and generators and transporting fuel
33 for generators;

34 (B) Have access to the distribution of fuel, food, water, supplies, equipment, and any
35 other materials necessary for maintaining or producing a broadcast or broadcasting
36 signal; and

37 (C) Not have vehicles, fuel, food, water, and any other materials seized or condemned
38 that are essential for maintaining or producing a broadcast or broadcasting signal.

39 (3) The Georgia Emergency Management Agency may develop or adopt courses of
40 instruction for use in training personnel of first informer broadcasters on personal safety
41 and navigation in an area affected by an emergency. The requirements of any such
42 training shall be established pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the director
43 of emergency management. The costs of any such training shall be paid by the first
44 informer broadcasters participating in the training."

45 **SECTION 3.**

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