

House Bill 845 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Strickland of the 111<sup>th</sup>, Powell of the 171<sup>st</sup>, Rutledge of the 109<sup>th</sup>, Bruce of the 61<sup>st</sup>, Pruett of the 149<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 1 of Title 35 and Code Section 50-18-72 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to general provisions for law enforcement officers and agencies and  
3 when public disclosure is not required, respectively, so as to prohibit the disclosure of arrest  
4 booking photographs under certain circumstances; to provide for related matters; to repeal  
5 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 1 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general  
9 provisions for law enforcement officers and agencies, is amended by adding a new Code  
10 section to read as follows:

11 "35-1-18.

12 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'booking photograph' means a photograph or  
13 image of an individual taken by an arresting law enforcement agency for the purpose of  
14 identification or taken when such individual was processed into a jail.

15 (b) Except as provided in Code Section 50-18-77 and booking photographs required for  
16 publication as set forth in Titles 16 and 40, for the State Sexual Offender Registry, and for  
17 use by law enforcement agencies for administrative purposes, an arresting law enforcement  
18 agency or agent thereof shall not post booking photographs to or on a website.

19 (c) An arresting law enforcement agency shall not provide or make available a copy of a  
20 booking photograph in any format to a person requesting such photograph if:

21 (1) Such booking photograph may be placed in a publication or posted to a website or  
22 transferred to a person to be placed in a publication or posted to a website; and

23 (2) Removal or deletion of such booking photograph from such publication or website  
24 requires the payment of a fee or other consideration.

25 (d) When a person requests a booking photograph, he or she shall submit a statement  
26 affirming that the use of such photograph is in compliance with subsection (c) of this Code

27 section. Any person who knowingly makes a false statement in requesting a booking  
28 photograph shall be guilty of a violation of Code Section 16-10-20."

29 **SECTION 2.**

30 Code Section 50-18-72 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to when public  
31 disclosure is not required, is amended by revising paragraph (4) of subsection (a) as follows:

32 "(4) Records of law enforcement, prosecution, or regulatory agencies in any pending  
33 investigation or prosecution of criminal or unlawful activity, other than initial police  
34 arrest reports and initial incident reports; provided, however, that an investigation or  
35 prosecution shall no longer be deemed to be pending when all direct litigation involving  
36 such investigation and prosecution has become final or otherwise terminated; and  
37 provided, further, that this paragraph shall not apply to records in the possession of an  
38 agency that is the subject of the pending investigation or prosecution; and provided,  
39 further, that the release of booking photographs shall only be permissible in accordance  
40 with Code Section 35-1-18;"

41 **SECTION 3.**

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