

Senate Bill 275

By: Senators Williams of the 27th, Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd, Burke of the 11th, Gooch of the 51st, Martin of the 9th and others

AS PASSED SENATE

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT**

1 To amend Chapter 80 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 general provisions regarding counties, municipal corporations, and other governmental
3 entities, so as to provide that the governing body of any county, consolidated government,
4 or municipality; local board of education; or any other state or local governmental entity shall
5 not adopt or maintain any policy, rule, or other provision that has the effect of preventing the
6 free exercise of the right of freedom of speech by the members of the governing body and
7 the ability of members of the governing body to discuss freely the policies and actions of
8 such entity; to provide for exceptions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
9 laws; and for other purposes.

10 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 Chapter 80 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general
13 provisions regarding counties, municipal corporations, and other governmental entities, is
14 amended by revising Code Section 36-80-1, which was previously reserved, as follows:

15 "36-80-1.

16 The governing body of any county, consolidated government, or municipality; local board
17 of education; or any other state or local governmental entity shall not adopt or maintain any
18 policy, rule, practice, or other provision that has the effect of preventing the free exercise
19 of the right of freedom of speech by the members of such governing body and the ability
20 of members of such governing body to discuss freely the policies and actions of such
21 governing body. The limitation of this Code section shall not apply to any matter or matters
22 discussed in executive session as defined in subsection (a) of Code Section 50-14-1 or
23 which are exempt from disclosure under Code Section 50-18-72. Reserved."

24 **SECTION 2.**

25 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.