

Senate Bill 217

By: Senators Stone of the 23rd, Mullis of the 53rd, Cowser of the 46th, Jones II of the 22nd,  
Miller of the 49th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Sections 35-8-13.1 and 42-8-107 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to training and certification of municipal probation officers and uniform professional  
3 standards and uniform contract standards, so as to revise the authority of a municipal  
4 probation officer relative to the exercise of the power of arrest and a Georgia Peace Officer  
5 Standards Training Council certification; 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 Code Section 35-8-13.1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to training and  
10 certification of municipal probation officers, is amended by revising subsection (a) as  
11 follows:

12 "(a) Any person employed or appointed as a municipal probation officer on or after  
13 ~~January 1, 1999~~ July 1, 2017, shall not be authorized to ~~serve~~ exercise the power of arrest  
14 as a municipal probation officer unless such person has successfully completed a training  
15 course and received certification for municipal probation officers approved by the Georgia  
16 Peace Officer Standards and Training Council."

17 **SECTION 2.**

18 Code Section 42-8-107 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to uniform  
19 professional standards and uniform contract standards, is amended by revising subsection (a)  
20 as follows:

21 "(a) The uniform professional standards contained in this subsection shall be met by any  
22 person employed as and using the title of a private probation officer or probation officer.  
23 Any such person shall be at least 21 years of age at the time of appointment to the position  
24 of private probation officer or probation officer and shall have completed a standard  
25 two-year college course or have four years of law enforcement experience; provided,

26 however, that any person employed as a private probation officer as of July 1, 1996, and  
27 who had at least six months of experience as a private probation officer or any person  
28 employed as a probation officer by a county, municipality, or consolidated government as  
29 of March 1, 2006, shall be exempt from such college requirements. Any person employed  
30 or appointed as a municipal probation officer on or after July 1, 2017, shall not be  
31 authorized to exercise the power of arrest as a municipal probation officer unless such  
32 person meets the requirements provided for under Code Section 35-8-13.1. Every private  
33 probation officer shall receive an initial 40 hours of orientation upon employment and shall  
34 receive 20 hours of continuing education per annum as approved by DCS, provided that  
35 the 40 hour initial orientation shall not be required of any person who has successfully  
36 completed a basic course of training for supervision of probationers or parolees certified  
37 by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council or any private probation  
38 officer who has been employed by a private probation corporation, enterprise, or agency  
39 for at least six months as of July 1, 1996, or any person employed as a probation officer by  
40 a county, municipality, or consolidated government as of March 1, 2006. In no event shall  
41 any person convicted of a felony be employed as a probation officer or private probation  
42 officer."

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**SECTION 3.**

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