

House Bill 650

By: Representatives Oliver of the 82<sup>nd</sup>, Smyre of the 135<sup>th</sup>, Drenner of the 85<sup>th</sup>, Shannon of the 84<sup>th</sup>, Mosby of the 83<sup>rd</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to state and other flags, so as to provide that local governments may relocate,  
3 remove, conceal, obscure, or alter certain monuments; to provide for related matters; to  
4 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

7 Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state  
8 and other flags, is amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 50-3-1, relating to  
9 description of state flag, militia to carry flag, defacing public monuments, and obstruction  
10 of Stone Mountain, as follows:

11 "(b)(1) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, corporation, or other entity to mutilate,  
12 deface, defile, or abuse contemptuously any publicly owned monument, plaque, marker,  
13 or memorial which is dedicated to, honors, or recounts the military service of any past or  
14 present military personnel of this state, the United States of America or the several states  
15 thereof, or the Confederate States of America or the several states thereof, and no officer,  
16 body, or representative of state or local government or any department, agency, authority,  
17 or instrumentality thereof shall remove or conceal from display any such monument,  
18 plaque, marker, or memorial for the purpose of preventing the visible display of the same  
19 without a duly adopted resolution of the public entity owning such monument, plaque,  
20 marker, or memorial authorizing such monument, plaque, marker, or memorial to be  
21 removed or concealed from display. A violation of this paragraph shall constitute a  
22 misdemeanor.

23 (2) No publicly owned monument or memorial erected, constructed, created, or  
24 maintained on the public property of this state or its agencies, departments, authorities,  
25 or instrumentalities in honor of the military service of any past or present military  
26 personnel of this state, the United States of America or the several states thereof, or the

27 Confederate States of America or the several states thereof shall be relocated, removed,  
28 concealed, obscured, or altered in any fashion without a duly adopted resolution of the  
29 public entity owning such monument or memorial authorizing such monument or  
30 memorial to be relocated, removed, concealed, obscured, or altered; provided, however,  
31 that appropriate measures for the preservation, protection, and interpretation of such  
32 monuments or memorials shall not be prohibited.

33 (3) Conduct prohibited by paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection shall be enjoined by  
34 the appropriate superior court upon proper application therefor.

35 (4) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, corporation, or other entity acting without  
36 authority to mutilate, deface, defile, abuse contemptuously, relocate, remove, conceal, or  
37 obscure any privately owned monument, plaque, marker, or memorial which is dedicated  
38 to, honors, or recounts the military service of any past or present military personnel of  
39 this state, the United States of America or the several states thereof, or the Confederate  
40 States of America or the several states thereof, provided that, if such monument, plaque,  
41 marker, or memorial is located on public property, the public entity owning such public  
42 property may remove from display and return such monument, plaque, marker, or  
43 memorial to the private entity owning such monument, plaque, marker, or memorial upon  
44 the adoption of a resolution by such public entity authorizing such removal and return.  
45 Any person or entity ~~who~~ that suffers injury or damages as a result of a violation of this  
46 paragraph may bring an action individually or in a representative capacity against the  
47 person or persons committing such violations to seek injunctive relief and to recover  
48 general and exemplary damages sustained as a result of such person's or persons'  
49 unlawful actions."

## 50 SECTION 2.

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