

House Bill 826 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Cauble of the 111th, Welch of the 110th, and Rutledge of the 109th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 1 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 general provisions regarding law enforcement officers and agencies, so as to provide that an
3 alarm monitoring company may contract out the requirement of attempting to verify an alarm
4 prior to requesting law enforcement to be dispatched to the location of the alarm; to provide
5 for related matters; to repeal 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 regarding law enforcement officers and agencies, is amended by revising Code
10 Section 35-1-9, relating to utilization of alarm verification required, as follows:

11 "35-1-9.

12 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

13 (1) 'Alarm monitoring company' means any person, company, corporation, partnership,
14 business, or a representative or agency thereof authorized to provide alarm monitoring
15 services for burglar alarm systems, fire alarm systems, or other similar electronic security
16 systems whether such systems are maintained on commercial business property, public
17 property, or individual residential property.

18 (2) 'Alarm verification' means a reasonable attempt by an alarm monitoring company to
19 contact the alarm site or alarm user, by telephone or other electronic means, to determine
20 whether a burglar alarm signal is valid prior to requesting law enforcement to be
21 dispatched to the location and, where the initial attempted contact cannot be made, a
22 second reasonable attempt to make such contact utilizing a different telephone number
23 or electronic address or number.

24 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this Code section, an alarm monitoring
25 company shall utilize a system providing for alarm verification of all alarm signals.

26 (c) Alarm verification shall not be required in ~~the~~:

- 27 (1) The case of a fire alarm or a panic or robbery-in-progress alarm or in cases;
28 (2) Cases where a crime-in-progress has been verified to be true by video or audible
29 means; or
30 (3) Cases where the alarm site or alarm user is a banking institution or a wholesaler or
31 retailer of firearms or pharmaceuticals and has contracted with the alarm monitoring
32 company for no alarm verification where it has been agreed that the alarm monitoring
33 company will request law enforcement to be dispatched to the location immediately upon
34 the triggering of the alarm."

35 **SECTION 2.**

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