

The House Committee on Regulated Industries offers the following substitute to HB 493:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To provide for professional engineers or other professionals to review certain plans related
2 to building and development if certain conditions are met so as to provide for a determination
3 in a timely manner; to amend Chapter 2 of Title 8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
4 relating to standards and requirements for construction, alteration, etc., of buildings and other
5 structures, so as to provide procedures for alternative plan review, permitting, and inspection
6 by private providers so as to simplify regulations on businesses at the local level; to provide
7 for definitions; to amend Chapter 7 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
8 relating to control of soil erosion and sedimentation, so as to authorize in certain
9 circumstances county and municipal governing authorities, or engineers hired by permit
10 applicants to approve erosion and sediment control plans in lieu of approval by soil and water
11 conservation commission districts; to provide that counties and municipalities can contract
12 with qualified personnel to implement land disturbance activity ordinances; to provide for
13 a short title; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

15 **SECTION 1.**

16 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Private Permitting Review and Inspection
17 Act."

18 **SECTION 2.**

19 Chapter 2 of Title 8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to standards and
20 requirements for construction, alteration, etc., of buildings and other structures, is amended
21 by revising subsection (g) of Code Section 8-2-26, relating to enforcement of codes
22 generally, employment and training of inspectors, and contracts for administration and
23 enforcement of codes, as follows:

24 "(g)(1) As used in this subsection, the term:

25 (A) 'Complete application' means a submitted plan, application, or request for
26 inspection that contains all of the information and supporting documentation required
27 by the county or municipality for it to make the determination as to whether the plan,
28 application, or request is in compliance with regulatory requirements.

29 (B) 'Private professional provider' means a professional engineer who holds a
30 certificate of registration issued under Chapter 15 of Title 43 or a professional architect
31 who holds a certificate of registration issued under Chapter 4 of Title 43, who is not an
32 employee of or otherwise affiliated with or financially interested in the person, firm, or
33 corporation engaged in the construction project to be reviewed or inspected.

34 (C) 'Regulatory fee' means payments, whether designated as permit fees, application
35 fees, or by another name, that are required by a local government as an exercise of its
36 police power, its regulation of business, or as a part of or as an aid to regulation of
37 construction related activities.

38 (D) 'Regulatory requirements' means the requirements determined by a county or
39 municipality to be necessary for approval of plans, permits, or applications.

40 (2) Each county or municipality which imposes regulatory fees or regulatory
41 requirements within its jurisdiction shall establish and make available a schedule of such
42 regulatory fees and regulatory requirements which shall include a list of all
43 documentation related to compliance with such regulatory requirements, including the
44 requirements necessary for submittal of a complete application. The amount of any
45 regulatory fee shall approximate the reasonable cost of the actual regulatory activity
46 performed by the local government and shall be subject to the provisions of paragraph (6)
47 of Code Section 48-13-5.

48 (3) No later than five business days after receipt of any application related to regulatory
49 requirements, a local building official of a county or municipality shall notify each
50 applicant as to whether the submitted documents meet the requirements of a complete
51 application. Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, time spent by a county or
52 municipality determining whether an application is complete shall count toward the
53 total 30 days for plan review or inspection. If a local building official determines that the
54 application is not complete, the applicant shall be provided written notice identifying the
55 items that are not complete. The 30 day time period is tolled when the application is
56 rejected as incomplete. If within 30 days after the county or municipality has provided
57 notice that the application is incomplete the permit applicant submits revisions to address
58 the identified deficiencies, the local building official shall have an additional five
59 business days to review the application for completeness.

60 (4) Upon notification to the applicant that a complete application has been accepted, a
61 county or municipality shall also notify each applicant as to whether the personnel

62 employed or contracted by such county or municipality will be able to provide regulatory
63 action within 30 days for plan review or provide inspection services within two business
64 days of receiving a valid written request for inspection.

65 (5) If the county or municipality determines that the personnel employed or contracted
66 by such county or municipality cannot provide regulatory action or inspection services
67 within the time frames required under paragraph (4) of this subsection, the applicant shall
68 have the option of retaining, at its own expense, a private professional provider to provide
69 the required plan review or inspection in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (7)
70 of this subsection. If the applicant elects to utilize the services of a private professional
71 provider, the regulatory fees associated with such regulatory action shall be reduced by
72 50 percent and such reduced amount shall be paid to the county or municipality in
73 accordance with such jurisdiction's policies.

74 (6) If the county or municipality determines that the personnel employed or contracted
75 by such county or municipality can provide regulatory action or inspection services
76 within the time frames required under paragraph (4) of this subsection, the full amount
77 of the regulatory fees associated with such regulatory action shall be paid to the county
78 or municipality in accordance with such jurisdiction's policies. Upon payment in full of
79 the regulatory fees associated with the complete application, the applicant may
80 nevertheless choose to retain, at its own expense, a private professional provider to
81 provide the required plan review or inspection, subject to the requirements set forth in
82 paragraph (7) of this subsection.

83 ~~(7) If a governing authority of a county or municipality cannot provide review of the~~
84 ~~documents intended to demonstrate that the structure to be built is in compliance with the~~
85 ~~Georgia State Minimum Standard Codes most recently adopted by the Department of~~
86 ~~Community Affairs and any locally adopted ordinances and amendments to such codes~~
87 ~~within 30 business days of receiving a written application for permitting in accordance~~
88 ~~with the code official's plan submittal process or inspection services within two business~~
89 ~~days of receiving a valid written request for inspection, then, in lieu of plan review or~~
90 ~~inspection by personnel employed by such governing authority, any person, firm, or~~
91 ~~corporation engaged in a construction project which requires plan review or inspection~~
92 ~~shall have the option of retaining, at its own expense, a private professional provider to~~
93 ~~provide the required plan review or inspection. As used in this subsection, the term~~
94 ~~'private professional provider' means a professional engineer who holds a certificate of~~
95 ~~registration issued under Chapter 15 of Title 43 or a professional architect who holds a~~
96 ~~certificate of registration issued under Chapter 4 of Title 43, who is not an employee of~~
97 ~~or otherwise affiliated with or financially interested in the person, firm, or corporation~~
98 ~~engaged in the construction project to be reviewed or inspected. The local governing~~

99 authority shall advise the permit applicant in writing if requested by the applicant at the
100 time the complete submittal application for a permit in accordance with the code official's
101 plan submittal process is received that the local governing authority intends to complete
102 the required plan review within the time prescribed by this paragraph or that the applicant
103 may immediately secure the services of a private professional provider to complete the
104 required plan review pursuant to this subsection. The plan submittal process shall include
105 those procedures and approvals required by the local jurisdiction before plan review can
106 take place. If the local governing authority states its intent to complete the required plan
107 review within the time prescribed by this paragraph, the applicant shall not be authorized
108 to use the services of a private professional provider as provided in this subsection. The
109 permit applicant and the local governing authority may agree by mutual consent to extend
110 the time period prescribed by this paragraph for plan review if the characteristics of the
111 project warrant such an extension. However, ~~if~~ If the local governing authority states its
112 intent to complete the required plan review within the time prescribed by this paragraph
113 (4) of this subsection, or any extension thereof mutually agreed to by the applicant and
114 the governing authority, and does not permit the applicant to use the services of a private
115 professional provider and the local governing authority fails to complete such plan review
116 in the time prescribed by this paragraph (4) of this subsection, or any extension thereof
117 mutually agreed to by the applicant and the governing authority, the local governing
118 authority shall issue the applicant a project initiation permit. The local governing
119 authority shall be allowed to limit the scope of a project initiation permit and limit the
120 areas of the site to which the project initiation permit may apply but shall permit the
121 applicant to begin work on the project, provided that portion of the initial phase of work
122 is compliant with applicable codes, laws, and rules. ~~If a full permit is not issued for the~~
123 ~~portion requested for permitting, then the governing authority shall have an additional 20~~
124 ~~business days to complete the review and issue the full permit.~~ If the plans submitted for
125 permitting are denied for any deficiency, the time frames and process for resubmittal shall
126 be governed by subparagraphs (C) through (E) of paragraph ~~(7)~~ (13) of this subsection.
127 ~~On or before July 1, 2007, the Board of Natural Resources shall adopt rules and~~
128 ~~regulations governing the review of erosion and sedimentation control plans under Part~~
129 ~~9 of Chapter 7 of Title 12 to establish appropriate time frames for the submission and~~
130 ~~review of revised plan submittals where a deficiency or deficiencies in the submitted~~
131 ~~plans have been identified by the governing authority.~~ Any delay in the processing of an
132 application that is attributable to a cause outside the control of the county or municipality
133 that is processing the application or through fault of the applicant shall not count toward
134 days for the purposes of this subsection.

135 ~~(2)~~(8) Any plan review or inspection conducted by a private professional provider shall
 136 be no less extensive than plan reviews or inspections conducted by county or municipal
 137 personnel.

138 ~~(3)~~(9) The person, firm, or corporation retaining a private professional provider to
 139 conduct a plan review or an inspection shall be required to pay to the county or
 140 municipality which requires the plan review or inspection the ~~same~~ regulatory fees and
 141 charges ~~which would have been required had the plan review or inspection been~~
 142 ~~conducted by a county or municipal inspector~~ which are required by either paragraph (5)
 143 or (6) of this subsection, as applicable.

144 ~~(4)~~(10) A private professional provider performing plan reviews under this subsection
 145 shall review ~~construction~~ plans to determine compliance with the Georgia State Minimum
 146 Standard Codes most recently adopted by the Department of Community Affairs and any
 147 locally adopted ordinances and amendments to such codes. Upon determining that the
 148 plans reviewed comply with the applicable codes, such private professional provider shall
 149 prepare an affidavit or affidavits on a form adopted by the Department of Community
 150 Affairs certifying under oath that the following is true and correct to the best of such
 151 private professional provider's knowledge and belief and in accordance with the
 152 applicable professional standard of care:

153 (A) The plans were reviewed by the affiant who is duly authorized to perform plan
 154 review pursuant to this subsection and who holds the appropriate license or
 155 certifications and insurance coverage stipulated in this subsection;

156 (B) The plans comply with the Georgia State Minimum Standard Codes most recently
 157 adopted by the Department of Community Affairs and any locally adopted ordinances
 158 and amendments to such codes; and

159 (C) The plans submitted for plan review are in conformity with plans previously
 160 submitted to obtain governmental approvals required in the plan submittal process and
 161 do not make a change to the project reviewed for such approvals.

162 ~~(5)~~(11) All private professional providers providing plan review or inspection services
 163 pursuant to this subsection shall secure and maintain insurance coverage for professional
 164 liability (errors and omissions) insurance. The limits of such insurance shall be not less
 165 than \$1 million per claim and \$1 million in aggregate coverage for any project with a
 166 construction cost of \$5 million or less and \$2 million per claim and \$2 million in
 167 aggregate coverage for any project with a construction cost of more than \$5 million.
 168 Such insurance may be a practice policy or project-specific coverage. If the insurance
 169 is a practice policy, it shall contain prior acts coverage for the private professional
 170 provider. If the insurance is project-specific, it shall continue in effect for two years
 171 following the issuance of the certificate of final completion for the project. A local

172 enforcement agency, local building official, or local government may establish, for
 173 private professional providers working within that jurisdiction, a system of registration
 174 listing the private professional providers within their stated areas of competency and
 175 verifying. The permit applicant shall verify compliance with the insurance requirements
 176 of this subsection paragraph.

177 ~~(6)~~(12) The private professional provider shall be empowered to perform any plan review
 178 or inspection required by the governing authority of any county or municipality,
 179 including, but not limited to, inspections for footings, foundations, concrete slabs,
 180 framing, electrical, plumbing, heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), or any
 181 and all other inspections necessary or required for the issuance of a building permit or
 182 certificate of occupancy by the governing authority of any county or municipality,
 183 provided that the plan review or inspection is within the scope of such private
 184 professional provider's area of competency. Nothing in this Code section shall authorize
 185 any private professional provider to issue a certificate of occupancy. Only a local
 186 governing authority shall be authorized to issue a certificate of occupancy.

187 ~~(7)(A)~~(13)(A) The permit applicant shall submit a copy of the private professional
 188 provider's plan review report to the county or municipality within five days of its
 189 completion. Such plan review report shall include at a minimum all of the following:

- 190 (i) The affidavit of the private professional provider required pursuant to this
- 191 subsection;
- 192 (ii) The applicable fees; and
- 193 (iii) Any documents required by the local official and any other documents necessary
- 194 to determine that the permit applicant has secured all other governmental approvals
- 195 required by law.

196 (B) No more than 30 ~~business~~ days after receipt of a permit application and the
 197 affidavit from the private professional provider required pursuant to this subsection, the
 198 local building official shall issue the requested permit or provide written notice to the
 199 permit applicant identifying the specific plan features that do not comply with the
 200 applicable codes, as well as the specific code chapters and sections. If the local
 201 building official does not provide a written notice of the plan deficiencies within the
 202 prescribed 30 day period, the permit application shall be deemed approved as a matter
 203 of law and the permit shall be issued by the local building official on the next business
 204 day.

205 (C) If the local building official provides a written notice of plan deficiencies to the
 206 permit applicant within the prescribed 30 day period, the 30 day period shall be tolled
 207 pending resolution of the matter. To resolve the plan deficiencies, the permit applicant

208 may elect to dispute the deficiencies pursuant to this subsection or to submit revisions
209 to correct the deficiencies.

210 (D) If the permit applicant submits revisions to address the plan deficiencies previously
211 identified, the local building official shall have the remainder of the tolled 30 day
212 period plus an additional five business days to issue the requested permit or to provide
213 a second written notice to the permit applicant stating which of the previously identified
214 plan features remain in noncompliance with the applicable codes, with specific
215 reference to the relevant code chapters and sections. If the local building official does
216 not provide the second written notice within the prescribed time period, the permit shall
217 be issued by the local building official on the next business day. In the event that the
218 revisions required to address the plan deficiencies or any additional revisions submitted
219 by the applicant require that new governmental approvals be obtained, the applicant
220 shall be required to obtain such approvals before a new plan report can be submitted.

221 (E) If the local building official provides a second written notice of plan deficiencies
222 to the permit applicant within the prescribed time period, the permit applicant may elect
223 to dispute the deficiencies pursuant to this subsection or to submit additional revisions
224 to correct the deficiencies. For all revisions submitted after the first revision, the local
225 building official shall have an additional five business days to issue the requested
226 permit or to provide a written notice to the permit applicant stating which of the
227 previously identified plan features remain in noncompliance with the applicable codes,
228 with specific reference to the relevant code chapters and sections.

229 ~~(8)~~(14) Upon submission by the private professional provider of a copy of his or her
230 inspection report to the local governing authority, said local governing authority shall be
231 required to accept the inspection of the private professional provider without the necessity
232 of further inspection or approval by the inspectors or other personnel employed by the
233 local governing authority unless said governing authority has notified the private
234 professional provider, within two business days after the submission of the inspection
235 report, that it finds the report incomplete or the inspection inadequate and has provided
236 the private professional provider with a written description of the deficiencies and
237 specific code requirements that have not been adequately addressed.

238 ~~(9)~~(15) A local governing authority may provide for the prequalification of private
239 professional providers who may perform plan reviews or inspections pursuant to this
240 subsection. No ordinance implementing prequalification shall become effective until
241 notice of the governing authority's intent to require prequalification and the specific
242 requirements for prequalification have been advertised in the newspaper in which the
243 sheriff's advertisements for that locality are published, and by any other methods such
244 local authority ordinarily utilizes for notification of engineering, architecture, or

245 construction related solicitations. The ordinance implementing prequalification shall
 246 provide for evaluation of the qualifications of a private professional provider only on the
 247 basis of the private professional provider's expertise with respect to the objectives of this
 248 subsection, as demonstrated by the private professional provider's experience, education,
 249 and training. Such ordinance may require a private professional provider to hold
 250 additional certifications, provided that such certifications are required by ordinance for
 251 plan review personnel currently directly employed by such local governing authority.

252 ~~(10)~~(16) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit any public or private right
 253 of action designed to provide protection, rights, or remedies for consumers.

254 ~~(11)~~(17) This subsection shall not apply to hospitals, ambulatory health care centers,
 255 nursing homes, jails, penal institutions, airports, buildings or structures that impact
 256 national or state homeland security, or any building defined as a high-rise building in the
 257 State Minimum Standards Code; provided, however, that interior tenant build-out projects
 258 within high-rise buildings are not exempt from this subsection.

259 ~~(12)~~(18) If the local building official determines that the building construction or plans
 260 do not comply with the applicable codes, the official may deny the permit or request for
 261 a certificate of occupancy or certificate of completion, as appropriate, or may issue a
 262 stop-work order for the project or any portion thereof as provided by law, after giving
 263 notice to the owner, the architect of record, the engineer of record, or the contractor of
 264 record and by posting a copy of the order on the site of the project and opportunity to
 265 remedy the violation within the time limits set forth in the notice, if the official
 266 determines noncompliance with state or local laws, codes, or ordinances, provided that:

267 (A) ~~The~~ A local building official shall be available to meet with the private
 268 professional provider within two business days to resolve any dispute after issuing a
 269 stop-work order or providing notice to the applicant denying a permit or request for a
 270 certificate of occupancy or certificate of completion; and

271 (B) If the local building official and the private professional provider are unable to
 272 resolve the dispute or meet within the time required by this Code section, the matter
 273 shall be referred to the local enforcement agency's board of appeals, if one exists, which
 274 shall consider the matter not later than its next scheduled meeting. Any decisions by
 275 the local official, if there is no board of appeals, may be appealed to the Department of
 276 Community Affairs as provided in this chapter. The Department of Community Affairs
 277 shall develop rules and regulations which shall establish reasonable time frames and
 278 fees to carry out the provisions of this paragraph.

279 ~~(13)~~(19) The local government, ~~the~~ a local building official, and local building code
 280 enforcement personnel and agents of the local government shall be immune from liability
 281 to any person or party for any action or inaction by an owner of a building or by a private

282 professional provider or its duly authorized representative in connection with building
 283 code plan review and inspection services by private professional providers as provided
 284 in this subsection.

285 ~~(14)~~(20) No local enforcement agency, local code official, or local government shall
 286 adopt or enforce any rules, procedures, policies, qualifications, or standards more
 287 stringent than those prescribed in this subsection. This subsection shall not preempt any
 288 local laws, rules, or procedures relating to the plan submittal process of local governing
 289 authorities.

290 ~~(15)~~(21) Nothing in this subsection shall limit the authority of ~~the~~ a local code official
 291 to issue a stop-work order for a building project or any portion of such project, which
 292 may go into effect immediately as provided by law, after giving notice and opportunity
 293 to remedy the violation, if the official determines that a condition on the building site
 294 constitutes an immediate threat to public safety and welfare. ~~A stop-work~~ stop-work
 295 order issued for reasons of immediate threat to public safety and welfare shall be
 296 appealable to the local enforcement agency's board of appeals, if one exists, in the manner
 297 provided by applicable law. Any decisions by the local official, if there is no board of
 298 appeals, may be appealed to the Department of Community Affairs as provided in this
 299 chapter.

300 ~~(16)~~(22) When performing building code plan reviews or inspection services, a private
 301 professional provider is subject to the disciplinary guidelines of the applicable
 302 professional licensing board with jurisdiction over such private professional provider's
 303 license or certification under Chapters 4 and 15 of Title 43, as applicable. Any complaint
 304 processing, investigation, and discipline that arise out of a private professional provider's
 305 performance of building code plan reviews or inspection services shall be conducted by
 306 the applicable professional licensing board. Notwithstanding any disciplinary rules of the
 307 applicable professional licensing board with jurisdiction over such private professional
 308 provider's license or certification under Chapters 4 and 15 of Title 43, any local building
 309 official may decline to accept building code plan reviews or inspection services submitted
 310 by any private professional provider who has submitted multiple reports which required
 311 revisions due to negligence, noncompliance, or deficiencies.

312 ~~(17)~~(23) Nothing in this subsection shall apply to inspections exempted in Code Section
 313 8-2-26.1.

314 (24) To the extent that a provision of this Code section conflicts with requirements of
 315 federal laws or regulations or impairs a county's or municipality's receipt of federal funds,
 316 such provision shall not apply."

317

SECTION 3.

318 Chapter 7 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to control of soil
 319 erosion and sedimentation, is amended by revising subsection (e) of Code Section 12-7-7,
 320 relating to permit or notice of intent for land-disturbing activities, approval of application and
 321 issuance of permit, denial of permit, and bond requirement, as follows:

322 "~~(e) No Except as provided in this subsection, no~~ permit shall be issued pursuant to
 323 subsection (b) of this Code section unless the erosion and sediment control plan has been
 324 approved by ~~the~~:

325 ~~(1) The appropriate district as is required~~ provided by Code Section 12-7-10. ~~When the~~:

326 ~~(2) The governing authority of a county or municipality lying within the boundaries of~~
 327 ~~the district demonstrates capabilities that:~~

328 ~~(A) Demonstrates the capability to review and approve an erosion and sediment control~~
 329 ~~plan and requests;~~

330 ~~(B) Requests an agreement with the district to conduct such review and approval, the~~

331 The district, with the concurrence of the commission, shall, upon such request, enter
 332 into an agreement which allows the governing authority to conduct review and approval
 333 without referring the application and plan to the district, if such governing authority
 334 meets the conditions specified by the district as set forth in the agreement. A district
 335 may not enter into an agreement authorized in this Code section paragraph with the
 336 governing authority of any county or municipality which that is not certified pursuant
 337 to subsection (a) of Code Section 12-7-8; or

338 ~~(3) An independent licensed professional engineer who:~~

339 ~~(A) Maintains a level 2 certification pursuant to Code Section 12-7-19;~~

340 ~~(B) Is hired by the applicant, provided that such engineer and any engineer partnered~~
 341 ~~or associated with such engineer did not participate in the design of the erosion and~~
 342 ~~sediment control plan or the associated project; and~~

343 ~~(C) Demonstrates the capability to review and approve an erosion and sediment control~~
 344 ~~plan and requests an agreement with the district to conduct such review and approval.~~

345 The district, with the concurrence of the commission, shall, upon such request, enter
 346 into an agreement which allows such independent licensed professional engineer to
 347 conduct review and approval without referring the application and plan to the district
 348 or to the governing authority of the county or municipality, if such independent licensed
 349 professional engineer meets the conditions specified by the district as set forth in the
 350 agreement."

351 **SECTION 4.**

352 Said chapter is further amended by revising paragraph (1) of subsection (a) and subsection
353 (c) of Code Section 12-7-8, relating to certification of locality as local issuing authority,
354 periodic review, procedure for revoking certification, and enforcement actions, as follows:

355 "(a)(1) If a county or municipality has enacted ordinances which meet or exceed the
356 standards, requirements, and provisions of this chapter and the state general permit,
357 except that the standards, requirements, and provisions of the ordinances for monitoring,
358 reporting, inspections, design standards, turbidity standards, education and training, and
359 project size thresholds with regard to education and training requirements shall not
360 exceed the state general permit requirements, and which are enforceable by such county
361 or municipality, and if a county or municipality documents that it employs or contracts
362 with qualified personnel to implement enacted ordinances, the director may certify such
363 county or municipality as a local issuing authority for the purposes of this chapter."

364 "(c) The board, on or before December 31, 2003, shall promulgate rules and regulations
365 setting forth the requirements and standards for certification and the procedures for
366 decertification of a local issuing authority. The division may periodically review the
367 actions of counties and municipalities which have been certified as local issuing authorities
368 pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section. Such review may include, but shall not be
369 limited to, review of the administration and enforcement of and compliance with a
370 governing authority's ordinances and review of conformance with an agreement, if any,
371 between the district and the governing authority. If such review indicates that the
372 governing authority of any county or municipality certified pursuant to subsection (a) of
373 this Code section has not administered, enforced, or complied with its ordinances or has
374 not conducted the program in accordance with ~~any agreement entered into pursuant to~~
375 subsection (e) of Code Section 12-7-7, the division shall notify the governing authority of
376 the county or municipality in writing. The governing authority of any county or
377 municipality so notified shall have 90 days within which to take the necessary corrective
378 action to retain certification as a local issuing authority. If the county or municipality does
379 not take necessary corrective action within 90 days after notification by the division, the
380 division shall revoke the certification of the county or municipality as a local issuing
381 authority."

382 **SECTION 5.**

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