

Senate Bill 300

By: Senators Jones of the 10th, Henson of the 41st, Butler of the 55th, Seay of the 34th,
Jordan of the 6th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 8 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to general provisions of the Department of Community Affairs, so as to establish a
3 grant program for local governments to conduct voting rights awareness and education; to
4 provide for authorized uses of grant funds; to authorize the department to apply for funds for
5 said grant program; to authorize the department to specify grant terms; to authorize the
6 department to contract with local governments; to provide limitations; to provide for related
7 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Article 1 of Chapter 8 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
11 general provisions of the Department of Community Affairs, is amended by adding a new
12 Code section to read as follows:

13 "50-8-8.1.

14 (a) Subject to appropriations by the General Assembly or other available funding, the
15 department shall be authorized to make grants to qualified local governments for local
16 voting rights awareness and education programs.

17 (b) Grant recipients shall be authorized to expend grant funds for the purpose of preparing
18 and distributing material solely to educate and inform electors of the qualified local
19 government with regard to voting rights. No material distributed by the recipient shall
20 contain or express, in any manner or form, any commentary or expression of opinion or
21 request for support with respect to any political issue or matter of political concern.

22 (c) The department may apply for, receive, administer, and use any grant, other financial
23 assistance, or other funds made available to the department from any government or other
24 source for furthering the purposes of this grant program.

25 (d) The department shall specify the terms under which it makes any funds available to a
26 qualified local government. The terms shall be those established or otherwise required by
27 the government or other source that makes the funds available to the department. If such
28 government or other source does not establish or otherwise require any such terms, the
29 department may establish the terms.

30 (e) The department shall set forth in writing the terms under which the department makes
31 funds available to a qualified local government. The terms may be set forth in a contract.
32 The department may execute any such contract on behalf of the state, and any qualified
33 local government is authorized to execute any such contract. Any such writing or contract
34 may incorporate other terms or laws by reference to such terms or laws.

35 (f) The power and authority of the department to make any funds available to qualified
36 local governments under this Code section shall be limited by the Constitution and laws of
37 this state and as specified in this article but shall not otherwise be limited.

38 (g) Except as otherwise provided in this Code section, the grant program provided for in
39 this Code section shall be administered pursuant to Code Section 50-8-8."

40 **SECTION 2.**

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