

Senate Bill 198

By: Senators Harper of the 7th, Albers of the 56th and Robertson of the 29th

AS PASSED SENATE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 Department of Public Safety, so as to provide for subsistence and per diem allowances; to
3 provide for receipt of badge and duty weapon upon retirement; to provide for authority to
4 grant salary increases upon completion of certain education courses; to provide for related
5 matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 2 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Department
9 of Public Safety, is amended by adding a new Code Section to read as follows:

10 "35-2-16.

11 (a) The commissioner shall be authorized to provide for a subsistence and per diem
12 allowance for employees of the department.

13 (b) The commissioner shall be authorized to pay to sworn employees of the department
14 additional compensation upon any such employee's retirement in the form of the badge and
15 the duty weapon issued by the department to such employee.

16 (c) The commissioner shall be authorized to grant a salary increase to those sworn
17 employees of the department and those communications officers who have obtained
18 degrees from an accredited member of the Federation of Regional Accrediting
19 Commissions of Higher Education or who have obtained a degree of completion from some
20 other educational institution with respect to a course of instruction related to law
21 enforcement, so long as both the course of instruction and the institution are specifically
22 approved by the commissioner.

23 (d) This Code section is not intended to repeal existing law concerning the following:

24 (1) The authority of the board to pay certain medical expenses incurred by any member
25 of the Georgia State Patrol or the Georgia Bureau of Investigation;

26 (2) The authority of the commissioner to provide uniforms and supplies to members of
27 the Uniform Division; or

28 (3) The requirement that board and quarters be furnished to every member of the
29 Uniform Division on active duty."

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SECTION 2.

31 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 35-2-42, relating to compensation
32 of certain members of the Department of Public Safety, subsistence and per diem allowances,
33 receipt of badge and duty weapon upon retirement, and incentive pay, as follows:

34 "35-2-42.

35 (a) All members of the Uniform Division, all communications officers, and all recruits or
36 cadets shall be governed by rules and regulations as now or hereafter established under
37 Chapter 20 of Title 45.

38 ~~(b) The board shall be authorized to provide for a subsistence and per diem allowance for~~
39 ~~commissioned officers, noncommissioned officers, and troopers of the Uniform Division.~~

40 ~~(c) The board shall be authorized to pay to sworn members of the Department of Public~~
41 ~~Safety additional compensation to be paid upon retirement in the form of the badge and the~~
42 ~~duty weapon issued by the department to such member.~~

43 ~~(d) The board shall be authorized to grant incentive pay to those members of the Uniform~~
44 ~~Division of the Department of Public Safety and those members of the Georgia Bureau of~~
45 ~~Investigation who have obtained degrees or certificates from an accredited member of the~~
46 ~~Federation of Regional Accrediting Commissions of Higher Education or who have~~
47 ~~obtained a degree or certificate of completion from some other educational institution with~~
48 ~~respect to a course of instruction related to law enforcement, so long as both the course of~~
49 ~~instruction and the institution are specifically approved by the board. Any such incentive~~
50 ~~pay shall be paid according to the following schedule:~~

51 ~~(1) Completion of at least one year of degree-creditable college study consisting of the~~
52 ~~equivalent of 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours of education: \$200.00 per year;~~

53 ~~(2) Obtaining of associate or two-year degree or certificate of completion of 60 semester~~
54 ~~hours or 90 quarter hours of education: \$400.00 per year;~~

55 ~~(3) Obtaining of a bachelor's or four-year degree: \$800.00 per year.~~

56 ~~(e) This Code section is not intended to repeal existing law concerning the following:~~

57 ~~(1) The authority of the board to pay certain medical expenses incurred by any member~~
58 ~~of the Georgia State Patrol or the Georgia Bureau of Investigation;~~

59 ~~(2) The authority of the commissioner to provide uniforms and supplies to members of~~
60 ~~the Uniform Division;~~

61 ~~(3) The requirement that board and quarters be furnished to every member of the~~
62 ~~Uniform Division on active duty; or~~

63 ~~(4) The authorization for officers and troopers to receive a legal award offered for the~~
64 ~~apprehension of any criminal."~~

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SECTION 3.

66 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
67 without such approval.

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SECTION 4.

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