

House Bill 875 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Knight of the 126th, Burns of the 157th, Jerguson of the 22nd, Cheokas of the 134th, McBrayer of the 153rd, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 27-1-3 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 ownership and custody of wildlife, preservation of hunting and fishing opportunities,
3 promotion and right to hunt, trap, or fish, local regulation, and general offenses, so as to
4 provide for privacy of certain records and personal information maintained by the
5 Department of Natural Resources pursuant to Title 27; to amend Code Section 52-7-5 of the
6 Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to numbering of vessels generally, so as to
7 provide for privacy of certain records and personal information maintained by the department
8 pursuant to Title 52; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 Code Section 27-1-3 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to ownership and
12 custody of wildlife, preservation of hunting and fishing opportunities, promotion and right
13 to hunt, trap, or fish, local regulation, and general offenses, is amended by adding a new
14 subsection to read as follows:

15 “(k) Records maintained by the department concerning individuals applying for, or in
16 possession of, any license, registration, permit, stamp, or permission issued by the
17 department under this title that reveal an individual's photograph or digitized image, social
18 security number, date of birth, driver's identification number, home address, home
19 telephone number, personal e-mail address, personal mobile telephone number, personal
20 text number, medical or disability information, bank account numbers, account or
21 identification number issued or used by any federal or state governmental agency or private
22 financial institution, employment history, height, weight, race, or other physical details,
23 signature, biometric identifiers, and any credit records or reports are exempt from any law
24 of this state requiring that such records be open for public inspection; provided, however,
25 that such records may be provided to public or private entities performing activities under
26 an agreement with the department and such records shall remain exempt from public

27 inspection. Such records shall also be provided, upon request, to any judge, law
 28 enforcement agency, or prosecuting official for use in the investigation or prosecution of
 29 alleged criminal or unlawful activity, and such records may be provided to other
 30 governmental entities for official use. Individuals applying for any license, registration,
 31 permit, stamp, or permission issued by the department under this title related to a business
 32 may indicate on the application that the department may reveal the address, telephone
 33 number, and e-mail address given for the business, even if these are the same as the
 34 individual's home address, telephone number, personal e-mail address, personal mobile
 35 telephone number, or personal text number."

36

SECTION 2.

37 Code Section 52-7-5 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to numbering of
 38 vessels generally, is amended by revising subsection (g) as follows:

39 "(g) All records of the department made or kept pursuant to this Code section shall be
 40 public records; provided, however, that the records maintained by the department
 41 concerning individuals applying for, or in possession of, any license, registration, permit,
 42 stamp, or permission issued by the department under this title that reveal an individual's
 43 photograph or digitized image, social security number, date of birth, driver's identification
 44 number, home address, home telephone number, personal e-mail address, personal mobile
 45 telephone number, personal text number, medical or disability information, bank account
 46 numbers, account or identification number issued or used by any federal or state
 47 governmental agency or private financial institution, employment history, height, weight,
 48 race, or other physical details, signature, biometric identifiers, and any credit records or
 49 reports are exempt from any law of this state requiring that such records be open for public
 50 inspection; provided, however, that such records may be provided to public or private
 51 entities performing activities under an agreement with the department and such records
 52 shall remain exempt from public inspection. Such records shall also be provided, upon
 53 request, to any judge, law enforcement agency, or prosecuting official for use in the
 54 investigation or prosecution of alleged criminal or unlawful activity, and such records may
 55 be provided to other governmental entities for official use. Individuals applying for any
 56 license, registration, permit, stamp, or permission issued by the department under this title
 57 related to a business may indicate on the application that the department may reveal the
 58 address, telephone number, and e-mail address given for the business, even if these are the
 59 same as the individual's home address, telephone number, personal e-mail address, personal
 60 mobile telephone number, or personal text number."

61

SECTION 3.

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