

House Bill 219 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Hilton of the 48th, Cooper of the 45th, Leverett of the 123rd, Ballard of the 147th, Petrea of the 166th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 11 of Chapter 1 of Title 7 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to records and reports of currency transactions, so as to provide for venue for the
3 offense of money laundering; to provide for legislative findings; to amend Article 1 of
4 Chapter 8 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to theft, so as to
5 provide for venue for the offense of theft of money held in a financial institution; to provide
6 for legislative findings; to provide for related matters: to repeal conflicting laws; and for
7 other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Article 11 of Chapter 1 of Title 7 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
11 records and reports of currency transactions, is amended by adding a new Code section to
12 read as follows:

13 "7-1-917.

14 In a prosecution under this article, when a currency transaction involves the movement or
15 transfer of digital or electronic money or currency held in an account at a financial
16 institution while knowing the moneys involved in a currency transaction represent the

H. B. 219 (SUB)

17 proceeds of some form of unlawful activity, the crime shall be considered as having been
18 committed:

19 (1) In any county in which the accused exercised control over such digital or electronic
20 money or currency which was the subject of the transaction;

21 (2) In any county in which any act was performed in furtherance of such transaction; or

22 (3) In any county in which an alleged victim resides."

23 **SECTION 2.**

24 Article 1 of Chapter 8 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to theft,
25 is amended by revising Code Section 16-8-11, relating to venue for purposes of Code
26 Sections 16-8-2 through 16-8-9 and 16-8-13 through 16-8-15, as follows:

27 "16-8-11.

28 (a) In a prosecution under Code Sections 16-8-2 through 16-8-9 and 16-8-13 through
29 16-8-15, the crime shall be considered as having been committed:

30 (1) In in any county in which the accused exercised control over the property which was
31 the subject of the theft; or

32 (2) If the subject of the theft involves the movement or transfer of digital or electronic
33 money or currency, cryptocurrency, or other such forms of electronic or digital currency
34 held in an account at a financial institution, the crime shall be considered as having been
35 committed:

36 (A) In any county in which any act was performed in furtherance of the violation
37 occurred; or

38 (B) In any county in which an alleged victim resides.

39 (b) ~~In addition,~~ in any prosecution under Code Section 16-8-4 in which there is a written
40 rental agreement for personal property, the crime shall also be considered to have been
41 committed in the county in which the accused signed the rental agreement."

42

SECTION 3.

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