

The Senate Committee on Public Safety offered the following substitute to HB 119:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 1 of Title 44 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 general provisions relative to property, so as to prohibit the placement of an instrument
3 designed to restrict movement of a vehicle upon a vehicle by any person other than an owner
4 or authorized operator thereof; to provide for a cause of action; to provide for applicability;
5 to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and
6 for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 1 of Title 44 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general
10 provisions relative to property, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

11 "44-1-13.1.

12 (a) It shall be unlawful and punishable by a fine of \$1,000.00 for any person other than an
13 owner or authorized operator of a vehicle to install or attach an immobilization device,
14 boot, or other instrument that is designed or intended to restrict the normal movement of
15 such vehicle.

16 (b) Any person who suffers injury or damages as a result of a violation of this Code
17 section may bring an action in any court of competent jurisdiction for actual damages,
18 which shall be presumed to be not less than \$100.00, together with court costs. A court
19 shall award three times actual damages for an intentional violation of this Code section.
20 (c) The provisions of this Code section shall not apply to the removal of a vehicle from
21 property by a storage or towing firm in accordance with Code Section 44-1-13."

22 **SECTION 2.**

23 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2024.

24 **SECTION 3.**

25 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.