

Senate Bill 523

By: Senators Hatchett of the 50th, Strickland of the 17th, Gooch of the 51st, Kennedy of the 18th, Anavitarte of the 31st and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 11 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 offenses against public order and safety, so as to provide for criminal offenses related to
3 material support of terrorism; to provide for penalties; to provide for legislative intent; to
4 provide for the creation of guidelines for law enforcement investigations; to provide for
5 definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 11 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to offenses against
9 public order and safety, is amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

10 "ARTICLE 7

11 16-11-230.

12 (a) As used in this article, the term:

13 (1) 'Act of terrorism' means an activity that:

(A) Involves violent acts or acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any state, or that would be a criminal violation if committed within the jurisdiction of the United States or of any state; and

(B) Is intended to:

(i) Intimidate, injure, or coerce a civilian population;

(ii) Influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or

(iii) Affect the conduct of government through mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping.

(2) 'Designated foreign terrorist organization' means an organization designated as a terrorist organization under 8 U.S.C. Section 1189.

(3) 'Expert advice or assistance' means advice or assistance derived from scientific, technical, or other specialized knowledge.

(4) 'Material support or resources' means any property, tangible or intangible, or service, including currency or monetary instruments or financial securities, financial services, lodging, training, expert advice or assistance, safe houses, false documentation or identification, communications equipment, facilities, weapons, lethal substances, explosives, personnel, or transportation. Such term does not include medicine or religious materials.

(5) 'Training' means instruction or teaching designed to impart a specific skill rather than general knowledge.

(b) A person commits a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 20 years or a fine of not more than \$100,000.00, or both, if the person:

(1) Provides material support or resources or conceals or disguises the nature, location, source, or ownership of the material support or resources, knowing or intending that the support or resources are to be used in preparation for or in carrying out an act of terrorism;

40 (2) Conceals an escape from the commission of a violation of paragraph (1) of this
41 subsection; or

42 (3) Attempts or conspires to commit a violation of paragraph (1) of this subsection.

43 (c) A person who knowingly provides material support or resources to a designated foreign
44 terrorist organization, or attempts or conspires to do so, commits a felony punishable by
45 imprisonment for not more than 20 years or a fine of not more than \$100,000.00, or both.
46 To violate this subsection, a person shall have knowledge that the organization is a
47 designated foreign terrorist organization or that the organization has engaged in or engages
48 in acts of terrorism.

49 (d)(1) For purposes of prosecution under subsection (b) or (c) of this Code section, a
50 person is deemed to provide material support or resources by providing personnel if the
51 person knowingly provides, attempts to provide, or conspires to provide himself or
52 herself or another person to:

53 (A) Work under the direction and control of a designated foreign terrorist organization
54 or a person engaged in, or intending to engage in, an act of terrorism; or

55 (B) Organize, manage, supervise, or otherwise direct the operations of a designated
56 foreign terrorist organization or a person engaged in, or intending to engage in, an act
57 of terrorism.

58 (2) An individual who acts entirely independently of the designated foreign terrorist
59 organization or the person engaged in, or intending to engage in, an act of terrorism to
60 advance the organization's or person's goals or objectives is not working under the
61 direction and control of the designated foreign terrorist organization or person engaged
62 in, or intending to engage in, an act of terrorism.

63 (e) A person shall not be prosecuted under this article if his or her activity was authorized
64 by a governmental or law enforcement agency of this state or of the United States in the
65 agency's official capacity and pursuant to a lawful purpose.

66 (f) It is the intent of the General Assembly that subsections (b) and (c) of this Code section
67 be interpreted in a manner consistent with federal case law interpreting 18 U.S.C. Sections
68 2339A and 2339B.
69 (g) The Georgia Bureau of Investigation, in consultation with the office of the Attorney
70 General, shall create guidelines for law enforcement investigations conducted pursuant to
71 this article to ensure the protection of privacy rights, civil rights, and civil liberties."

72 **SECTION 2.**

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