

House Bill 911

By: Representative Cummings of the 39th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 5 of Title 51 of the Official Code of Georgia, relating to libel and slander,
2 so as to prohibit individuals from bringing defamation actions against another individual who
3 makes a communication regarding an incident of sexual assault, sexual harassment, or sex
4 discrimination when that individual believed such incident to have occurred; to provide for
5 attorney's fees and costs for a prevailing defendant; to provide for related matters; to repeal
6 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 5 of Title 51 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to libel and slander,
10 is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

11 "51-5-13.

12 (a) An individual shall not bring an action pursuant to this chapter against another
13 individual who makes a communication without malice regarding an incident of sexual
14 assault, sexual harassment, or sex discrimination if, at the time of making the
15 communication, the communicating individual has a reasonable belief that sexual assault,
16 sexual harassment, or sex discrimination occurred.

17 (b) A prevailing defendant in an action brought in violation of subsection (a) of this Code
18 section is entitled to recover reasonable attorney's fees, expenses of litigation, and costs."

19 **SECTION 2.**

20 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.