

**ADOPTED**

Senators Strickland of the 42nd, Albers of the 56th, Robertson of the 29th, Payne of the 54th, and Bearden of the 30th offered the following amendment #1:

1 *Amend the Senate Committee on Judiciary substitute to HB 582 (LC 49 2384S) by replacing*  
2 *lines 1 and 2 with the following:*

3 To amend Titles 16, 17, 24, and 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
4 crimes and offenses, criminal procedure, evidence, and public officers and employees,  
5 respectively, so as to provide for defendants

6 *By inserting before "to provide for related matters;" on line 9 the following:*

7 to provide for uniform oaths to be sworn by all peace officers; to provide for aspirational  
8 language in such oaths; to limit the legal effect of any such aspirational language; to limit the  
9 crime of violation of oath of a public officer to codified oaths; to limit the violation of oath  
10 by a public officer to violations predicated on certain offenses;

11 *By inserting between lines 59 and 60 the following:*

12 **SECTION 4.**

13 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 16-10-1, relating to violation of oath  
14 by public officer, as follows:

15 "16-10-1.

16 (a) Any public officer who willfully and intentionally violates the terms of his or her oath  
17 as prescribed by law shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by imprisonment for not  
18 less than one nor more than five years.

19 (b) Any peace officer, as such term is defined in Code Section 35-8-2, who has sworn the  
 20 oath or oaths prescribed in Code Sections 15-16-4 and 45-3-7 shall be subject to  
 21 prosecution under this Code section only for violations of such oath or oaths as prescribed.  
 22 (c) No individual shall be subject to prosecution for violation of his or her oath of office  
 23 under this Code section, except where such violation is predicated upon the commission  
 24 of a felony or a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature."

25 *By inserting between lines 231 and 232 the following:*

26 **SECTION 9.**

27 Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to public officers and employees,  
 28 is amended by revising Code Section 45-3-7, relating to oaths of deputies, as follows:

29 "45-3-7.

30 (a) Before proceeding to act, all deputies shall take the same oaths as their principals take  
 31 and the oaths shall be filed and entered on the minutes of the same office with the same  
 32 endorsement thereon; but this Code section shall not apply to any deputy who may be  
 33 employed in particular cases only. A deputy sheriff may take his or her oaths before the  
 34 sheriff and the oaths may be filed in and entered in the records of the sheriff's office.

35 (b) All peace officers, as such term is defined in Code Section 35-8-2, taking their oath of  
 36 office on or after July 1, 2025, shall be administered the following oath:

37 'I, (name of person taking oath), hereby swear or affirm that I will faithfully, fairly,  
 38 and without malice or partiality uphold the laws of the State of Georgia, as well as  
 39 any ordinances which I am authorized to enforce, to the best of my ability and support  
 40 and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Georgia. So  
 41 help me God.'

42 (c) A peace officer may take his or her oath before the chief executive officer of the  
 43 agency or any authorized judicial official, and such oath may be filed in and entered in the  
 44 records of that agency.

45 (d) An agency may administer additional oaths that contain provisions not specifically  
46 prescribed and enumerated in this Code section; provided, however, that such oaths, and  
47 any language in addition to the language set forth in this Code section, shall be deemed  
48 aspirational only and of no legal effect in any civil or criminal proceeding.

49 (e) Sheriffs and their sworn deputies taking their oath of office on or after July 1, 2025,  
50 shall take the oath set forth in Code Section 15-16-4; provided, however, that any language  
51 in such oath in addition to the language set forth in such Code section shall be deemed  
52 aspirational only and of no legal effect in any civil or criminal proceeding."

53 *By redesignating Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 as Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10, respectively.*