

The House Committee on Special Rules offers the following substitute to HB 1082:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 holidays and observances, so as to designate November 7 of each year as "Victims of  
3 Communism Day"; to provide for observances; to provide legislative findings; to provide for  
4 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 The General Assembly finds that:

8 (1) Over 100 years have passed since the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia and the  
9 formation of the first communist government under Vladimir Lenin, leading to decades of  
10 oppression and violence under communist regimes throughout the world;

11 (2) Based on the economic philosophies of Karl Marx, communism has proven  
12 incompatible with the ideals of liberty, prosperity, and dignity of human life and has given  
13 rise to such infamous totalitarian dictators as Joseph Stalin, Vladimir Lenin, Mao Zedong,  
14 János Kádár, Fidel Castro, Hugo Chávez, Daniel Ortega, Ho Chi Minh, Wojciech  
15 Jaruzelski, and Pol Pot;

16 (3) Communist regimes worldwide have killed more than 100 million people and subjected  
17 countless others to exploitation and unspeakable atrocities, with victims representing many  
18 different ethnicities, creeds, and backgrounds;

19 (4) Through false promises of equality and liberation or through coercion, brutality, and  
20 fear, communist regimes have systematically robbed their own citizens of the rights to  
21 freedom of worship, freedom of speech, and freedom of association;

22 (5) Many victims of communism were persecuted as political prisoners for speaking out  
23 against these regimes, and others were killed in genocidal state sponsored purges of  
24 undesirable groups;

25 (6) In addition to violating basic human rights, communist regimes have suppressed  
26 intellectual freedom, cultural life, and self-determination movements in numerous nations;  
27 and

28 (7) The State of Georgia is home to many of these freedom-loving victims and their  
29 descendants from across the world who came to this great state in pursuit of the American  
30 Dream.

31 **SECTION 2.**

32 Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to holidays and  
33 observances, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

34 "1-4-28.

35 (a) November 7 of each year is designated as 'Victims of Communism Day' in Georgia.

36 (b) The Governor may annually issue a proclamation designating November 7 as 'Victims  
37 of Communism Day,' which shall be suitably observed by public exercise at the state  
38 capitol and elsewhere as the Governor may designate."

39 **SECTION 3.**

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