

Senate Bill 454

By: Senators Williams of the 25th, Albers of the 56th, Robertson of the 29th, Anavitarte of the 31st, Anderson of the 24th and others

AS PASSED SENATE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 25 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 regulation of fire and other hazards to persons and property generally, so as to authorize the
3 use of temporary door locking devices in public buildings during certain emergency
4 situations; to provide for guidelines for use of such devices; to provide for rules and
5 regulations; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
6 laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 2 of Title 25 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to regulation of fire
10 and other hazards to persons and property generally, is amended by adding a new Code
11 section to read as follows:

12 "25-2-37.1.

13 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

14 (1) 'Public building' means any structure which is generally open to members of the
15 public with or without the payment of an admission fee or membership dues including,
16 but not limited to, structures owned, operated, or leased by the state, the United States or

17 any state thereof, any foreign nation, or any political subdivision or authority thereof; any
18 religious organization; any medical facility; any child care learning center; any college,
19 school, or university; or any corporation, partnership, or association.

20 (2) 'Temporary door locking device' means a device that prevents a door from opening,
21 provided that the device:

22 (A) Can be engaged or removed without opening the door and removed with a single
23 operation when engaged;

24 (B) Can be engaged and removed from the egress side of the door without the use of
25 a key and removed from the ingress side of the door with the use of a key or other
26 credential;

27 (C) Does not modify the door closer or any panic hardware or fire exit hardware;

28 (D) Is not permanently mounted to the door assembly; provided, however, that
29 individual parts of the device assembly, including, but not limited to, bolts, stops,
30 brackets, and pins that do not prevent normal function of the door, may be permanently
31 mounted; and

32 (E) Does not affect the fire rating of the door and complies with national fire protection
33 association fire rating standards.

34 (b) A temporary door locking device may be used in a public building to secure a door to
35 a room, or to secure a fire exit, hallway, corridor, or entranceway leading to a fire exit,
36 provided that such device is:

37 (1) Used only during an emergency active threat situation or drill, including, but not
38 limited to, sheltering in place or lockdown;

39 (2) Installed at a height not to exceed 48 inches above the floor; and

40 (3) Integrated into building safety plans, drills, and training programs that include
41 in-service training on the use of such devices for building staff, and that such plans and
42 programs are made available to first responders.

- 43 (c) If a temporary door locking device is to be used for securing a fire exit, hallway,
44 corridor, or entranceway leading to a fire exit, in addition to the requirements under
45 subsection (b) of this Code section, such device shall be approved by the local fire
46 department, local law enforcement agency, state fire marshal, or local fire marshal prior to
47 use.
- 48 (d) The Commissioner shall adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement the
49 provisions of this Code section."

50

SECTION 2.

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