

House Bill 356

By: Representatives Powell of the 32nd, Harbin of the 122nd, McCall of the 33rd, Hitchens of the 161st, Glanton of the 75th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 3 of Article 4 of Chapter 11 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to carrying and possession of firearms, so as to provide for the offense
3 of unlawfully carrying a weapon into a secure airport area; to provide for related matters; to
4 provide for an effective date and applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
5 purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Part 3 of Article 4 of Chapter 11 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
9 relating to carrying and possession of firearms, is amended by adding a new Code section to
10 read as follows:

11 "16-11-127.3

12 (a) No person shall enter the restricted access area of a commercial service airport, in or
13 beyond the airport security screening checkpoint, knowingly possessing or knowingly
14 having under his or her control a weapon or long gun. This area shall not include an airport
15 drive, general parking area, walkway, or shops and areas of the terminal that are outside
16 the screening checkpoint and that are normally open to unscreened passengers or visitors
17 to the airport. Any restricted access area shall be clearly indicated by prominent signs
18 indicating that firearms and other weapons are prohibited in the area.

19 (b) A person who violates the provisions of subsection (a) of this Code section shall be
20 guilty of a misdemeanor offense; provided, however, a person who violates subsection (a)
21 with the intent to commit a separate felony offense shall be guilty of a felony and, upon
22 conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$1,000.00 nor more than
23 \$15,000.00 or by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than ten years, or both."

24 **SECTION 2.**

25 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2013, and shall apply to offenses committed on
26 or after such date.

27 **SECTION 3.**

28 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.