

House Bill 375 (AM)

By: Representatives Powell of the 171st, Fleming of the 121st, Hightower of the 68th, Hitchens of the 161st, Powell of the 32nd, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 40-2-20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 registration and license requirements, so as to provide for a temporary operating permit when
3 a vehicle fails to pass federal emissions standards and certain conditions have been satisfied;
4 to amend Code Section 40-6-15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
5 knowingly driving a motor vehicle with a suspended, canceled, or revoked vehicle
6 registration, so as to change provisions relating to a plea of nolo contendere; to provide for
7 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Code Section 40-2-20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to registration and
11 license requirements, is amended by adding a new subparagraph to paragraph (1) of
12 subsection (a) to read as follows:

13 "(C) The county tag agent may issue a temporary operating permit for any vehicle that
14 fails to comply with applicable federal emission standards, provided that the owner of
15 such vehicle has provided verification of the existence of minimum motor vehicle
16 liability insurance coverage and paid all applicable taxes, penalties, insurance lapse
17 fees, and fees other than the registration fee. Such temporary operating permit shall be
18 valid for 30 days and shall not be renewable."

19 **SECTION 2.**

20 Code Section 40-6-15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to knowingly
21 driving a motor vehicle with a suspended, canceled, or revoked vehicle registration, is
22 amended by revising subsection (e) as follows:

23 "(e) For all purposes under this Code section, a plea of nolo contendere shall be considered
24 as a conviction. For purposes of pleading nolo contendere, only one nolo contendere plea
25 shall be accepted to a charge of driving a motor vehicle with a suspended, canceled, or

26 revoked vehicle registration within a five-year period of time as measured from the date
27 of the previous arrest for which a conviction was obtained or plea of nolo contendere was
28 accepted to the date of the current arrest. All other nolo contendere pleas within such
29 period of time shall be considered convictions."

30 **SECTION 3.**

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