

House Bill 498

By: Representatives Strickland of the 111th and Welch of the 110th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 1 of Title 51 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 general provisions regarding torts, so as to give a right of action against any broadcaster who
3 broadcasts the depiction of an accident or trauma scene in such manner as would give
4 personally identifiable visual information or identification of a victim; to provide for related
5 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 1 of Title 51 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general
9 provisions regarding torts, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

10 "51-1-55.

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

12 (1) 'Broadcast' means the transmission of video programming by an electronic or other
13 signal conducted by airwaves or microwaves, by wires, lines, coaxial cables, wave guides
14 or fiber optics, by satellite transmissions directly or indirectly to viewers or listeners, or
15 by any other means of communication.

16 (2) 'Broadcaster' means any corporation or other entity that is engaged in the business of
17 broadcasting video programming, whether through the public airwaves, by cable, by
18 direct or indirect satellite transmission, or by any other means of communication.

19 (b) Any broadcaster who broadcasts the depiction of an accident or trauma scene in such
20 manner as would give personally identifiable visual information or identification of a
21 victim at such scene shall give the injured party a right of action."

22 **SECTION 2.**

23 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.