

House Bill 976 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Hitchens of the 161<sup>st</sup>, Willard of the 51<sup>st</sup>, Powell of the 32<sup>nd</sup>, Caldwell of the 131<sup>st</sup>, Tanner of the 9<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 5 of Chapter 18 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to state records management, so as to provide for minimum retention periods for  
3 video recordings from law enforcement body-worn devices or devices located on or inside  
4 of a law enforcement vehicle; to provide for a definition; to provide for exceptions; to  
5 provide for presumptions, civil liability, and fees; to provide for related matters; to repeal  
6 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 5 of Chapter 18 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
10 state records management, is amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 50-18-92,  
11 relating to the creation of the State Records Committee and retention schedules, as follows:  
12 "(a) There is created the State Records Committee, to be composed of the Governor, the  
13 Secretary of State, the chancellor of the University System of Georgia, an appointee of the  
14 Governor who is not the Attorney General, the state auditor, and an officer of a governing  
15 body, as such terms are defined in subsection (a) of Code Section 50-18-99, to be appointed  
16 by the chancellor, or their designated representatives. It shall be the duty of the committee  
17 to review, approve, disapprove, amend, or modify retention schedules submitted by agency  
18 heads, school boards, county governments, and municipal governments through the  
19 division for the disposition of records based on administrative, legal, fiscal, or historical  
20 values. ~~The~~ Except as provided in Code Section 50-18-96, the retention schedules, once  
21 approved, shall be authoritative, shall be directive, and shall have the force and effect of  
22 law. A retention schedule may be determined by four members of the committee.  
23 Retention schedules may be amended by the committee on change of program mission or  
24 legislative changes affecting the records. The chancellor of the University System of  
25 Georgia shall serve as chairperson of the committee and shall schedule meetings of the

26 committee as required. Four members shall constitute a quorum. Each agency head has  
 27 the right of appeal to the committee for actions taken under this Code section."

28 **SECTION 2.**

29 Said article is further amended by revising Code Section 50-18-96, which was previously  
 30 reserved, as follows:

31 "50-18-96.

32 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'governing body' shall have the same meaning  
 33 as set forth in Code Section 50-18-99.

34 (b) Video recordings from law enforcement body-worn devices or devices located on or  
 35 inside of law enforcement vehicles shall be retained for 180 days from the date of such  
 36 recording except:

37 (1) If such recording is part of a criminal investigation, shows a vehicular accident,  
 38 shows the detainment or arrest of an individual, or shows a law enforcement officer's use  
 39 of force, it shall be retained for 30 months from the date of such recording; and

40 (2) If such recording contains evidence that is or can reasonably be anticipated to be  
 41 necessary for pending litigation, it shall be retained for 30 months from the date of such  
 42 recording, and if litigation is commenced during such period it shall be retained until a  
 43 final adjudication of such litigation.

44 (c) The retention periods described in this Code section are de minimis.

45 (d) This Code section shall not require the destruction of such video recording after the  
 46 required retention period.

47 (e) Any video recording destroyed pursuant to the retention schedule provided in this Code  
 48 section shall be deemed to have been properly destroyed, and no evidentiary presumption  
 49 shall be made that such recording was harmful to the governing body or any law  
 50 enforcement officer depicted in such recording.

51 (f) A governing body or law enforcement officer shall not have a duty to redact or obscure  
 52 people, objects, or information that appear in a video recording from any law enforcement  
 53 body-worn device or device located on or inside of a law enforcement vehicle, nor shall  
 54 such body or officer have any civil liability for such depiction.

55 (g) Notwithstanding fees imposed pursuant to Article 4 of this chapter, an additional fee  
 56 of \$10.00 shall be imposed for the copying of video recordings from law enforcement  
 57 body-worn devices or devices located on or inside of a law enforcement vehicle.

58 Reserved."

59 **SECTION 3.**

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