

Senate Bill 279

By: Senators Harper of the 7th, Albers of the 56th, Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd, Dugan of the 30th, Williams of the 27th and others

AS PASSED SENATE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 8 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 employment and training of peace officers, so as to include the commissioner of juvenile
3 justice and the commissioner of natural resources as voting members of the Georgia Peace
4 Officer Standards and Training Council; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
5 laws; and for other purposes.

6 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 8 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to employment and
9 training of peace officers, is amended by revising Code Section 35-8-3, relating to
10 establishment of Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council, membership,
11 organization, and administrative assignment to Department of Public Safety, as follows:

12 "35-8-3.

13 (a) The Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council is established. The council
14 shall consist of ~~20~~ 22 voting members and five advisory members.

15 (b) The voting members shall consist of:

16 (1) An appointee of the Governor who is not the Attorney General, the commissioner of
17 public safety or his or her designee, the director of investigation of the Georgia Bureau
18 of Investigation or his or her designee, the president of the Georgia Association of Chiefs
19 of Police or his or her designee, the president of the Georgia Sheriffs Association or his
20 or her designee, the president of the Georgia Municipal Association or his or her
21 designee, the president of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia or his or her
22 designee, the president of the Peace Officers' Association of Georgia or his or her
23 designee, the commissioner of corrections or his or her designee, the commissioner of
24 community supervision or his or her designee, the chairperson of the State Board of
25 Pardons and Paroles or his or her designee, ~~and~~ the president of the Georgia Prison
26 Wardens Association or his or her designee, the commissioner of juvenile justice or his

27 or her designee, and the commissioner of natural resources or his or her designee, who
28 shall be ex officio members of the council;

29 (2) Six members who shall be appointed by the Governor for terms of four years, their
30 initial appointments, however, being two for four-year terms, two for three-year terms,
31 and two for two-year terms. Appointments shall be made so that there are always on the
32 council the following persons who are appointed by the Governor: one chief of police;
33 two municipal police officers other than a chief of police; one county sheriff; one city
34 manager or mayor; and one county commissioner. No person shall serve beyond the time
35 he or she holds the office or employment by reason of which he or she was initially
36 eligible for appointment. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original
37 appointment, and successors shall serve for the unexpired term. Any member may be
38 appointed for additional terms; and

39 (3) Two members who are peace officers and who shall be appointed by the Governor
40 for terms of four years. Neither person shall serve beyond the time he or she is actively
41 employed or serves as a peace officer. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as
42 the original appointment, and successors shall serve for the unexpired term.

43 (c) Five advisory members shall be appointed by the council to serve on the council in an
44 advisory capacity only without voting privileges.

45 (d) Membership on the council does not constitute public office, and no member shall be
46 disqualified from holding public office by reason of his or her membership.

47 (e) The council is assigned to the Department of Public Safety for administrative purposes
48 only, as prescribed in Code Section 50-4-3."

49 **SECTION 2.**

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