

Senate Bill 343

By: Senators Harbison of the 15th, Rhett of the 33rd, Davenport of the 44th, James of the 35th, Williams of the 39th and others

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 prohibit the issuance and renewal of drug
3 recognition expert certifications by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training
4 Council; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Chapter 8 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to employment and
8 training of peace officers, is amended in Code Section 35-8-7, relating to the powers and
9 duties of the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council, by revising
10 paragraph (21) as follows:

11 "(21) To develop, adopt, and issue advanced or professional peace officer certificates
12 based upon the attainment of specified education, advanced or specialized training, and
13 experience as the council may determine, provided that issuance of such certificates is not
14 prohibited by this chapter;"

15 **SECTION 2.**

16 Said chapter is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

17 "35-8-28.

18 (a) For purposes of this Code section, the term 'drug recognition expert certification' means
19 accreditation of a peace officer through training and testing in the area of identifying a
20 person's impairment due to use of alcohol, marijuana, or one or more controlled substances.

21 (b) On and after July 1, 2018, no drug recognition expert certification or similar
22 accreditation shall be issued or renewed by the council. Any certification as a drug
23 recognition expert issued prior to July 1, 2018, shall be valid until the expiration of such
24 certification."

25

SECTION 3.

26 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.