

07 LC 29 2581

House Bill 257

By: Representatives Yates of the 73rd and Knight of the 126th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

To amend Part 3 of Article 4 of Chapter 11 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to carrying and possession of firearms, so as to change certain provisions regarding the transportation and carrying of firearms; to change certain provisions relating to carrying deadly weapons to or at public gatherings; to provide for constables to carry pistols in publicly owned or operated buildings; to exempt constables from the prohibition of carrying weapons within school safety zones, at school functions, or on school property; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

Part 3 of Article 4 of Chapter 11 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to carrying and possession of firearms, is amended in Code Section 16-11-127, relating to carrying deadly weapons at public gatherings, by revising subsection (c) and adding new subsections to read as follows:

"(c)(1) This Code section shall not apply to competitors participating in organized sport shooting events.

(2) Law enforcement officers, peace officers retired from state, local, or federal law enforcement agencies, judges, magistrates, constables, solicitors-general, and district attorneys may carry pistols in publicly owned or operated buildings; provided, however, that a courthouse security plan adopted in accordance with paragraph (10) of subsection (a) of Code Section 15-16-10 may prohibit the carrying of a pistol."

"(e) A person licensed or permitted to carry a firearm by this part shall be permitted to carry such firearm, subject to the limitations of this part, in public transportation notwithstanding Code Sections 16-12-122 through 16-12-127; provided, however, that a person shall not carry a firearm into a place prohibited by federal law.

"(f) A person licensed or permitted to carry a firearm by this part shall not consume alcoholic beverages in a restaurant or other eating establishment while carrying a firearm. Any person violating this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor."

**SECTION 2.**

Said part is further amended in Code Section 16-11-127.1, relating to carrying weapons within school safety zones, at school functions, or on school property, by striking "or" at the end of paragraph (16), by replacing the period with "; or" at the end of paragraph (17), and by adding a new paragraph to subsection (c) to read as follows:

"(18) Constables of any county of this state."

### **SECTION 3.**

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