House Bill 343 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)
By: Representatives Rhodes of the 120th, LaRiccia of the 169th, Corbett of the 174th, LaHood of the 175th, and Burns of the 159th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To amend Code Section 27-3-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to requirement of permission to hunt on lands of another, written permission, enforcement, and immunity of landowner from civil liability, so as to revise penalties; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Code Section 27-3-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to requirement of permission to hunt on lands of another, written permission, enforcement, and immunity of landowner from civil liability, is amended by revising said Code section as follows:

"27-3-1.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt upon the lands of another or enter upon the lands of another in pursuit of wildlife, with or without a license, without first obtaining permission from the landowner or lessee of such land or the lessee of the game rights of such land. Such permission shall not be required, however, if the person hunting or a member of the person's family is the owner of the land, the lessee of the land, or the lessee of the game rights of the land. For the purposes of this Code section only, 'family' means

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mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, 
niece, nephew, grandson, granddaughter, grandmother, grandfather, or spouse.
(b) If the land is posted and if the owner of the land, lessee of the land, or lessee of the 
game rights of the land has informed a law enforcement agency that permission to hunt 
upon the land must be in writing, then the permission required by subsection (a) of this 
Code section must be in writing and must be carried on the hunter's person.
(c)(1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, any person who violates 
subsection (a) or (b) of this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be 
punished by a fine of not less than $500.00 $975.00.
(2) Any person who violates subsection (a) or (b) of this Code section for the second 
time within a two-year period shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated 
nature and shall be punished by a fine of not less than $1,000.00 $2,000.00; and the 
department shall revoke the right of such person to a hunting license for a period of one 
year for each such second conviction within a two-year period.
(3) Any person who violates subsection (a) or (b) of this Code section for a third or 
subsequent time within a three-year period shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and 
aggravated nature and shall be punished by a fine of not less than $2,000.00 $3,000.00; 
and the department shall revoke the right of such person to a hunting license for a period 
of three years for each such third or subsequent conviction within a three-year period.
(4) The minimum fines and revocation periods specified in this subsection shall not 
apply, however, to an offender who is 17 years of age or younger.
(d) It shall be the duty of any peace officer whose duty it is to preserve the peace or make 
arrests or enforce the law to enforce this Code section.
(e) Any owner of land, lessee of land, or lessee of the game or fishing rights to land who 
gives permission to another person to hunt, fish, or take wildlife upon the land with or 
without charge shall be entitled to the same protection from civil liability provided by
Article 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 51 for landowners who allow the public to use their land for recreational purposes without charge."

SECTION 2.

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