

Senate Bill 159

By: Senators Robertson of the 29th, Albers of the 56th, Dugan of the 30th, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd and Walker III of the 20th

AS PASSED

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 5 of Title 42 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to general provisions regarding correctional institutions of state and counties, so as
3 to revise punishment provisions relative to prohibited items in possession by inmates; to
4 provide for enhanced punishment for violations committed by department employees or
5 contractors; to revise punishment provisions relative to unauthorized photography or
6 recording of a place of incarceration using unmanned aircraft; to provide for related matters;
7 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Article 1 of Chapter 5 of Title 42 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
11 general provisions regarding correctional institutions of state and counties, is amended by
12 revising Code Section 42-5-18, relating to items prohibited for possession by inmates,
13 warden's authorization, penalty, and use of unmanned aircraft to accomplish violations, as
14 follows:

15 "42-5-18.

16 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

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17 (1) 'Inmate' means a prisoner, detainee, criminal suspect, immigration detainee, or other
18 person held, incarcerated, or detained in a place of incarceration, whether or not such
19 person is inside or outside of such place of incarceration.

20 (2) 'Place of incarceration' means any prison, probation detention center, jail, or
21 institution, including any state, federal, local, or privately operated facility, used for the
22 purpose of incarcerating criminals or detainees.

23 (3) 'Telecommunications device' means a device, an apparatus associated with a device,
24 or a component of a device that enables, or may be used to enable, communication with
25 a person outside a place of incarceration, including a telephone, cellular telephone,
26 personal digital assistant, transmitting radio, or computer connected or capable of being
27 connected to a computer network, by wireless or other technology, or otherwise capable
28 of communicating with a person or device outside of a place of incarceration.

29 (4) 'Warden or superintendent' means the commissioner or any warden, superintendent,
30 sheriff, chief ~~jailer~~ jailer, or other person who is responsible for the overall management
31 and operation of a place of incarceration.

32 (b) It shall be unlawful for any person to obtain for, to procure for, or to give to an inmate
33 a gun, pistol, or any other weapon; any intoxicating liquor; amphetamines, biphphetamines,
34 or any other hallucinogenic drugs or other drugs, regardless of the amount; any
35 telecommunications device; or any other article or item without the authorization of the
36 warden or superintendent or his or her designee.

37 (b.1) It shall be unlawful for any person to obtain for, to procure for, or to give to an
38 inmate tobacco or any product containing tobacco without the authorization of the warden
39 or superintendent or his or her designee.

40 (c) It shall be unlawful for an inmate to possess a gun, pistol, or any other weapon; any
41 intoxicating liquor; tobacco or any product containing tobacco; amphetamines,
42 biphphetamines, or any other hallucinogenic drugs or other drugs, regardless of the amount;

43 a telecommunications device; or any other item without the authorization of the warden or
44 superintendent or his or her designee.

45 (d)(1) An inmate who commits or attempts to commit a violation of subsection (c) of this
46 Code section shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned
47 for not less than one nor more than five years; provided, however, that, if an inmate
48 violates this Code section while being held pursuant to an arrest or conviction for a
49 misdemeanor offense, the possession of a telecommunications device in violation of this
50 Code section shall be treated as a misdemeanor.

51 (2) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (4) of this subsection, any A person who
52 commits or attempts to commit a violation of subsection (b) of this Code section shall be
53 guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be sentenced to a ~~mandatory~~
54 ~~minimum~~ term of imprisonment of ~~two~~ ten years ~~but not more than ten years, and no~~
55 ~~portion of the mandatory minimum sentence imposed shall be suspended, stayed,~~
56 ~~probated, deferred, or withheld by the sentencing court.~~

57 (3) Except as otherwise provided for in paragraph (4) of this subsection, any A person
58 who commits or attempts to commit a violation of subsection (b.1) of this Code section
59 shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned for not less
60 than one nor more than five years.

61 (4) An employee or contractor of the department who commits or attempts to commit a
62 violation of subsection (b) or (b.1) of this Code section shall be guilty of a felony and,
63 upon conviction thereof, shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of ten years.

64 (e)(1) It shall be unlawful for an inmate to possess a stored value card, the account
65 number of a stored value card, or the personal identification number of a stored value
66 card.

67 (2) It shall be unlawful for any person to obtain for, to procure for, or to give an inmate
68 a stored value card, the account number of a stored value card, or the personal
69 identification number of a stored value card.

70 (3) A person who commits a violation of this subsection shall be guilty of a felony and,
71 upon conviction thereof, shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than one
72 nor more than ten years, unless the judge imposes a misdemeanor sentence pursuant to
73 Code Section 17-10-5.

74 (f)(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to intentionally use an unmanned aircraft
75 system to violate the provisions of subsection (b) or (b.1) of this Code section.

76 (2)(A) It shall be unlawful for any person to intentionally photograph or otherwise
77 record images of a place of incarceration through the use of an unmanned aircraft
78 system for purposes of committing a criminal offense.

79 (B) Any person may secure prior authorization from the warden or the superintendent,
80 or his or her designated representative, of such place of incarceration for photographing
81 or recording as evidence of a noncriminal intent; provided, however, that failure to
82 secure such prior authorization shall not evidence a criminal intent.

83 (3) Any person who commits or attempts to commit a violation of this subsection shall
84 be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be sentenced as follows:

85 (A) Any person convicted of a violation of paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be
86 imprisoned for not less than one nor more than ten years; and

87 (B) Any person convicted of paragraph (2) of this subsection shall be imprisoned for
88 not less than ~~one~~ five nor more than ~~five~~ ten years.

89 (4) For purposes of this Code section, the term 'unmanned aircraft system' shall have the
90 same meaning as provided for in Code Section 6-1-4."

91 **SECTION 2.**

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