



# THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## EXECUTIVE ORDER

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BY THE GOVERNOR:

**WHEREAS:** On February 27, 2026, Mr. Gerald Couch, Sheriff of Hall County, was arrested by the Georgia State Patrol and charged with one count of Driving Under the Influence, Failure to Maintain Lane, and Possession of Open Container of Alcoholic Beverage; and

**WHEREAS:** Pursuant to Code Section 15-16-26(a), the Governor has the authority to appoint an investigative committee consisting of the Attorney General and two sheriffs who are members of the Georgia Sheriffs' Association when the Governor "determines that an investigation of a sheriff of this state should be made as a result of criminal charges, alleged misconduct in office, or alleged incapacity of the sheriff to perform the functions of his office[;]" and

**WHEREAS:** By letter dated March 3, 2026, the Georgia Sheriffs' Association has requested the appointment of a committee under Code Section 15-16-26 to investigate Sheriff Couch, as a result of his arrest.

**NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO CODE SECTION 15-16-26, AND THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, IT IS HEREBY**

**ORDERED:** That Attorney General Christopher Carr, Sheriff Donnie Harrison of Greene County, and Sheriff Jeremy Kelley of Glasscock County are hereby appointed as the committee to investigate Sheriff Gerald Couch.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** That the committee shall make a report of its investigation to me within 30 days of the date of this Order.

This 6<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

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GOVERNOR