A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Chapter 1 of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions regarding insurance, so as to create the crime of staging a collision; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Chapter 1 of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions regarding insurance, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

"33-1-9.1. (a) A person shall be guilty of the crime of staging a collision when, with intent to commit insurance fraud, as defined in Code Section 33-1-9, such person does any of the following:

(1) Intentionally causes or attempts to cause a motor vehicle collision; or

(2) Engages in a scheme to fabricate evidence of a motor vehicle collision that did not occur.

Staging a collision shall constitute a felony punishable by no less than one year nor more than five years imprisonment.

(b) A person shall be guilty of the crime of aggravated staging of a collision when, with intent to commit insurance fraud as defined in Code Section 33-1-9, such person commits acts in violation of subsection (a) of this Code section which result in serious personal injury to another. Aggravated staging of a collision shall constitute a felony punishable by no less than two years nor more than ten years imprisonment.

(c) A person shall be guilty of the crime of making a fraudulent claim related to a staged collision when such person makes, or assists in making, a claim for insurance benefits of any type or brings, or assists in bringing, a civil lawsuit against another seeking monetary damages with knowledge that the injuries for which insurance benefits or monetary damages are sought resulted from a staged collision, or seeks to obtain any benefit to which
such claimant is not legally entitled. Making a fraudulent claim related to a staged collision shall constitute a felony and shall be punishable by no less than one year nor more than five years imprisonment.”

SECTION 2.

This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

SECTION 3.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.