

The House Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security offers the following substitute to SB 277:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 6 of Title 17 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to general provisions relative to bonds and recognizances, so as to provide for
3 conditions applicable to professional bonding companies that have operated continuously for
4 18 months or longer in a particular county; to provide for related matters; to repeal
5 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 1 of Chapter 6 of Title 17 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
9 general provisions relative to bonds and recognizances, is amended by revising
10 subparagraph (b)(1)(E) of Code Section 17-6-15, relating to necessity for commitment where
11 bail tendered and accepted, opportunity for bail, receipt of bail after commitment and
12 imprisonment, imprisonment of person who offers bond for amount of bail set, and effect
13 upon common-law authority of court, as follows:

14 "(E) Establishment of a cash escrow account or other form of collateral as follows:

- 15 (i) For any professional bonding company that is new to the county or that has
16 operated continuously in the county for less than 18 months, in an amount and upon
17 terms and conditions as determined and approved by the sheriff;
- 18 (ii) Once a professional bonding company has operated continuously for 18 months
19 or longer in the county, then any such cash escrow account or other form of collateral
20 shall not exceed ~~10~~ 5 percent of the current outstanding bail bond liability of the
21 professional bonding company and such cash escrow account shall not be required to
22 have on deposit an amount in excess of \$1 million; and
- 23 (iii) No professional bonding company shall purchase an insurance policy in lieu of
24 establishing a cash escrow account or posting other collateral; provided, however, that
25 any professional bonding company which was using an insurance policy as collateral
26 as of December 31, 2013, may continue to do so at the discretion of the sheriff."

27

SECTION 2.

28 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.