

# PRESS RELEASE

## Georgia General Assembly Repeals Antiquated Public Gathering Laws

*Sweeping gun reform legislation removes Georgia's Jim Crow Public Gathering Laws after 140 years of enforcement. SB308 replaces vague and unenforceable language with specific locations to carry.*

**Atlanta, April 30, 2008:** GeorgiaCarry.org, Inc. (GCO) is proud to announce the passage of SB308, which replaces the vaguely written antiquated public gathering laws that have been enforced since 1870. Endorsed by GeorgiaCarry.Org, this bill is a significant step toward restoring second Amendment rights to keep and bear arms for Georgians. After being forced to a Conference Committee by the Georgia Senate, the bill was passed in the fading hours of the General Assembly late last night. Once the Senate passed the bill, the House passed the bill moments later. The bill will now be sent to the Governor's desk for his actions.

GeorgiaCarry.Org, a grassroots second Amendment organization for Georgia worked tirelessly to get SB308 passed.

Despite strong opposition from gun control advocacy groups, these changes to the existing laws do nothing more than bring Georgia up to par with a majority of states as to where firearms may lawfully be carried. As Senator Mitch Seabaugh, author of SB308 stated many times during his marathon quest to get this legislation passed, "A firearms license is not a license to commit a crime. Georgia Firearms License holders are the most law abiding group of people in Georgia. The changes will only effect law abiding citizens as criminals will continually ignore them. Random acts of violence are not committed by lawfully permitted individuals."

From Senator Seabaugh's Press Release, "Today was a victory for lawfully carrying citizens and law enforcement officials with the General Assembly's support to clear up confusion in Georgia's firearms laws. Any time we can clear up confusing laws, every citizen benefits. Property owners retained their personal rights and law enforcement will be able to properly enforce the law to keep citizens safe," said Seabaugh. "I want to thank my colleagues in the Senate and House for their support and willingness to work on this legislation. This is truly a bill written by the citizens of Georgia. I want to thank everyone who provided valuable input into writing this bill to help achieve a law that makes sense."

GeorgiaCarry.Org wishes to thank Senator Mitch Seabaugh for authoring this bill and working tirelessly

to see it through every step of legislation. Senator Seabaugh spent many hours answering questions, holding hearings, and standing up for Georgia license holders while exhibiting the leadership necessary to obtain passage of this bill. His interest in learning about Georgia firearms laws included him obtaining Georgia Firearms License so that he would know the full process. Georgia Citizens should be proud of a civic leader that will make the effort to learn the issue from beginning to end.

GeorgiaCarry.Org also wishes to thank the many senators and representatives who spoke, sponsored, and voted for this bill, sometimes against overwhelming odds. Those “include, but are not limited to”, Senator John Wiles and the members of the Senate Special Judiciary Subcommittee, Representative Ed Setzler and the members of the House Judiciary Non-Civil Subcommittee, Representative Rich Golick and the members of the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee and Representative Billy Horne, Senator Preston Smith and Senate Majority Leader, Chip Rogers.

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GeorgiaCarry.org (GCO) is a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and improvement of Georgia’s right to keep and bear arms. GCO’s mission is carried out through selected litigation, grassroots legislative efforts, and active participation with elected officials at all levels throughout Georgia.