

Senate Bill 357

By: Senators Heath of the 31st, Brass of the 28th, Robertson of the 29th, Harper of the 7th,  
Payne of the 54th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 3 of Article 4 of Chapter 11 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to carrying and possession of firearms, so as to revise the ability of  
3 persons to carry weapons in places of worship and in schools operated by such places of  
4 worship; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Part 3 of Article 4 of Chapter 11 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
8 relating to carrying and possession of firearms, is amended by revising paragraph (4) of  
9 subsection (b) of Code Section 16-11-127, relating to carrying weapons in unauthorized  
10 locations, as follows:

11 ~~"(4) In a place of worship, unless the governing body or authority of the place of worship~~  
12 ~~permits the carrying of weapons or long guns by license holders; provided, however, that~~  
13 ~~the governing body or authority of the place of worship may allow the carrying of~~  
14 ~~weapons or long guns by individuals with a valid license or groups of individuals with~~  
15 ~~valid licenses by policy or combination of policies;"~~

16 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

17 Said part is further amended by revising paragraph (6) of subsection (c) of Code  
18 Section 16-11-127.1, relating to carrying weapons within school safety zones, at school  
19 functions, or on a bus or other transportation furnished by a school, as follows:

20 "(6) A person who has been authorized in writing by a duly authorized official of a public  
21 or private elementary or secondary school or a public or private technical school,  
22 vocational school, college, university, or other institution of postsecondary education or  
23 a local board of education as provided in Code Section 16-11-130.1 to have in such  
24 person's possession or use within a school safety zone, at a school function, or on a bus  
25 or other transportation furnished by a school a weapon which would otherwise be  
26 prohibited by this Code section; provided, however, that churches and other places of

27 worship that operate schools on their premises may authorize persons to have weapons  
28 in their possession or use within the school safety zone at such school, at school functions  
29 of such school, and on a bus or other transportation furnished by such school without  
30 complying with Code Section 16-11-130.1. Such authorization shall specify the weapon  
31 or weapons which have been authorized and the time period during which the  
32 authorization is valid;"

33 **SECTION 3.**

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