

# Georgia General Assembly

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## 2013-2014 Regular Session - HB 59

### Alarm monitoring services; licensed persons and companies to utilize alarm verification; require

#### Sponsored By

(1) Taylor, Tom 79th

(2) Cooke, Kevin 18th

(3) Riley, Lynne 50th

#### Sponsored In Senate By

Millar, Fran 40th

#### Committees

HC: Public Safety and Homeland Security

SC: Public Safety

#### First Reader Summary

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 1 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions for law enforcement officers and agencies, so as **to require persons and companies licensed to provide alarm monitoring services to utilize alarm verification** in order to preserve valuable municipal and county law enforcement and firefighter resources; to provide for exceptions; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

#### Status History

Jul/01/2013 - Effective Date  
 May/06/2013 - Act 235  
 May/06/2013 - House Date Signed by Governor  
 Apr/04/2013 - House Sent to Governor  
 Mar/26/2013 - Senate Passed/Adopted  
 Mar/26/2013 - Senate Third Read  
 Mar/05/2013 - Senate Read Second Time  
 Mar/04/2013 - Senate Committee Favorably Reported  
 Feb/12/2013 - Senate Read and Referred  
 Feb/11/2013 - House Passed/Adopted  
 Feb/11/2013 - House Third Readers  
 Feb/06/2013 - House Committee Favorably Reported  
 Jan/17/2013 - House Second Readers  
 Jan/16/2013 - House First Readers  
 Jan/15/2013 - House Hopper

#### Votes

Mar/26/2013 - Senate Vote #298	Yea(32)	Nay(14)	NV(1)	Exc(9)
Feb/11/2013 - House Vote #32	Yea(157)	Nay(9)	NV(6)	Exc(8)

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House Bill 59 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Taylor of the 79<sup>th</sup>, Cooke of the 18<sup>th</sup>, and Riley of the 50<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 1 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 general provisions for law enforcement officers and agencies, so as **to require persons and**  
3 **companies licensed to provide alarm monitoring services to utilize alarm verification in order**  
4 **to preserve valuable municipal and county law enforcement and firefighter resources;** to  
5 provide for exceptions; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal  
6 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

9 Chapter 1 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general  
10 provisions for law enforcement officers and agencies, is amended by revising Code Section  
11 35-1-9, which is reserved, as follows:

12 "35-1-9.

13 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

14 (1) 'Alarm monitoring company' means any person, company, corporation, partnership,  
15 business, or a representative or agency thereof authorized to provide alarm monitoring  
16 services for burglar alarm systems, fire alarm systems, or other similar electronic security  
17 systems whether such systems are maintained on commercial business property, public  
18 property, or individual residential property.

19 (2) 'Alarm verification' means a reasonable attempt by an alarm monitoring company to  
20 contact the alarm site or alarm user, by telephone or other electronic means, to determine  
21 whether a burglar alarm signal is valid prior to requesting law enforcement to be  
22 dispatched to the location and, where the initial attempted contact cannot be made, a  
23 second reasonable attempt to make such contact utilizing a different telephone number  
24 or electronic address or number.

25 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this Code section, an alarm monitoring  
26 company shall utilize a system providing for alarm verification of all alarm signals.

27 (c) Alarm verification shall not be required in the case of a fire alarm or a panic or  
28 robbery-in-progress alarm or in cases where a crime-in-progress has been verified to be  
29 true by video or audible means. Reserved."

30 **SECTION 2.**

31 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2013.

32 **SECTION 3.**

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