

Senate Bill 266

By: Senators Ginn of the 47th, Tippins of the 37th, Beach of the 21st, Kennedy of the 18th, Shafer of the 48th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 6 of Title 32 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to the control of signs and signals on public roads generally, so as to require a study
3 considering the conversion of stop signs to yield signs; to provide for related matters; to
4 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 SECTION 1.

7 Article 3 of Chapter 6 of Title 32 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
8 control of signs and signals on public roads generally, is amended by revising Code Section
9 32-6-50, relating to uniform regulations governing traffic-control devices and their
10 placement, removal, defacement, damaging, or sale, as follows:

11 "32-6-50.

12 (a) The department shall promulgate uniform regulations governing the erection and
13 maintenance on the public roads of Georgia of signs, signals, markings, or other
14 traffic-control devices, such uniform regulations to supplement and be consistent with the
15 laws of this state. Insofar as practical, with due regard to the needs of the public roads of
16 Georgia, such uniform regulations shall conform to the recommended regulations as
17 approved by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

18 (b) In conformity with its uniform regulations, the department shall place and maintain,
19 or cause to be placed and maintained, such traffic-control devices upon the public roads of
20 the state highway system as it shall deem necessary to regulate, warn, or guide traffic,
21 except that the department shall place and maintain a sign for each railroad crossing at
22 grade on the state highway system, warning motorists of such crossing, provided that each
23 railroad company shall also erect and maintain a railroad crossbuck sign on its right of way
24 at every such crossing. The department may remove or direct removal of all traffic-control
25 devices and signs which are erected on the state highway system by any governing
26 authority without the permission of the department. Prior to July 1, 2028, the department

27 shall undertake a study of the stop signs currently placed upon the public roads of the state
28 highway system and consider the extent to which replacing any such stop signs with yield
29 signs may serve the public interest.

30 (c) In conformity with the uniform regulations of the department:

31 (1) Counties and municipalities shall place and maintain upon the public roads of their
32 respective public road systems such traffic-control devices as are necessary to regulate,
33 warn, or guide traffic except that counties and municipalities also shall erect and maintain
34 a sign for each railroad crossing at grade on their respective county road or municipal
35 street systems, warning motorists of such crossing. Furthermore, each railroad company
36 shall erect and maintain a railroad crossbuck sign on its right of way at all such crossings;
37 **and**

38 (2) Counties, on their respective road systems, shall place and maintain on each county
39 road which is authorized as a designated local truck route, pursuant to official resolution
40 of the county, at each intersection of such road with a state highway signs identifying
41 such county road as a designated local truck route and giving notice of the maximum
42 weight limits for such designated local truck route in accordance with subsection (f) of
43 Code Section 32-6-26; and

44 (3) Prior to July 1, 2028, counties and municipalities shall undertake a study of the stop
45 signs currently placed upon the public roads of their respective public road systems and
46 consider the extent to which replacing any such stop signs with yield signs may serve the
47 public interest.

48 (d) It shall be unlawful for any person to remove, deface, or damage in any way any
49 official traffic-control device lawfully erected or maintained pursuant to this Code section
50 or any other law.

51 (e) No person, firm, corporation, or other entity shall offer for sale any sign, signal,
52 marking, or other device intended to regulate, warn, or guide traffic upon the public roads
53 of this state, unless it conforms with the uniform regulations promulgated under subsection
54 (a) of this Code section. Any person, firm, corporation, or other entity who sells any sign,
55 signal, marking, or other device intended to regulate, warn, or guide traffic upon the public
56 roads of this state in violation of this Code section shall make restitution to the purchaser
57 in an amount equal to the entire sum, plus interest, originally paid for the sign, signal,
58 marking, or other device. Any person, firm, corporation, or other entity who knowingly
59 sells any sign, signal, marking, or other device intended to regulate, warn, or guide traffic
60 upon the public roads of this state in violation of subsection (a) of this Code section shall
61 be guilty of a misdemeanor."

62

SECTION 2.

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