

House Bill 71

By: Representatives Turner of the 21st, Caldwell of the 20th, Stover of the 71st, and Clark of the 98th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 6 of Chapter 3 of Title 44 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to property owners' associations, so as to prohibit certain restrictions on political
3 signs; to provide for a short title; to provide for legislative findings and a purpose; to provide
4 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 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Lawful Expression of Speech Act."

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

9 The Georgia General Assembly finds that the proliferation of signs during the period
10 preceding elections and referenda can stifle freedom of expression in residential areas subject
11 to declarations of property owners' associations.

12 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 3.**

13 Article 6 of Chapter 3 of Title 44 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
14 property owners' associations, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

15 "44-3-236.

16 During the 30 days preceding any primary election, general election, special election, or
17 other election or referendum, any provision in a declaration that prohibits the placement
18 of three or fewer signs that do not each exceed six square feet in surface area on any lot
19 shall be void and unenforceable."

20 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 4.**

21 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.