

The House Committee on Insurance offers the following substitute to SB 110:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 registration and licensing of motor vehicles, so as to establish the Back the Blue Fund from  
3 which the state revenue commissioner distributes voluntary contributions made through  
4 vehicle registration applications to sheriffs for the purpose of increasing the pay to or  
5 enhancing the benefits of law enforcement officers in this state; to provide for a short title;  
6 to provide for legislative findings; to provide for definitions; to provide for the state revenue  
7 commissioner to include a provision on applications for vehicle registrations to allow an  
8 applicant to voluntarily contribute to such fund; to exclude such voluntary contributions from  
9 the general fund of the state treasury; to require county tax agents to report and remit such  
10 contributions weekly to the state revenue commissioner; to require the state revenue  
11 commissioner to distribute such fund annually to the Georgia Sheriffs' Association, which  
12 shall distribute moneys from such funds in equal portions to the sheriff of each county of this  
13 state; to provide for the state revenue commissioner to determine reasonable administrative  
14 costs; to provide sheriffs sole discretion to determine the manner in which the fund is used  
15 to increase pay and enhance benefits; to provide for automatic repeal; to provide for related  
16 matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

S. B. 110 (SUB)

**SECTION 1.**

18

19 Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to registration and  
20 licensing of motor vehicles, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

21 "40-2-26.1.

22 (a) This Code section shall be known and may be cited as the 'Back the Blue Act.'

23 (b) The General Assembly finds that:

24 (1) It is in the best interest of this state to provide a mechanism to support a program that  
25 encourages the hiring and retaining of law enforcement officers and promotes public  
26 safety for the benefit of the citizens of Georgia;

27 (2) Hiring and retaining experienced law enforcement officers increases public safety,  
28 builds stronger communities, and restores trust and goodwill between communities and  
29 law enforcement officers;

30 (3) Evidence shows that supplementing pay and enhancing benefits attract better job  
31 applicants and improve the retention of experienced law enforcement officers; and

32 (4) Retaining experienced law enforcement officers means fewer hiring and training  
33 expenses for law enforcement agencies.

34 (c) As used in this Code section, the term:

35 (1) 'Back the Blue Fund' or 'fund' means the fund established by this Code section.

36 (2) 'Sheriff' means the duly elected or appointed sheriff of each county in this state.

37 (d) There is created the Back the Blue Fund for the purpose of increasing the pay to and  
38 enhancing the benefits of law enforcement officers in this state. The state revenue  
39 commissioner shall be the custodian of the fund and shall administer the fund as further  
40 provided in this Code section.

41 (e) No later than January 1, 2024, the state revenue commissioner shall include on the  
42 form provided for in Code Section 40-2-26 a place for an applicant to elect to contribute  
43 an amount of \$3.00 to the Back the Blue Fund. Any such voluntary contribution shall be

44 made at the discretion of the applicant at the time of application in addition to the payment  
45 of any other fees required under this chapter.

46 (f) County tag agents shall hold amounts voluntarily contributed to the Back the Blue Fund  
47 in a fiduciary capacity. The amounts received shall be promptly accounted for, separated  
48 from other moneys received, and reasonably ascertainable. Such amounts shall be included  
49 in the weekly reports and remittances provided for in Code Section 40-2-34; provided,  
50 however, that such amounts shall not be deposited in the general fund of the state treasury.

51 (g) No later than January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the state revenue commissioner  
52 shall distribute moneys from the Back the Blue Fund to the Georgia Sheriffs' Association,  
53 which shall distribute such moneys in equal portions to the sheriff of each county in this  
54 state on a per county basis.

55 (h) The Back the Blue Fund shall only be used for increasing the pay to or enhancing the  
56 benefits of law enforcement officers; provided, however, that the state revenue  
57 commissioner shall determine a reasonable amount, not to exceed 5 percent of the fund,  
58 that may be retained for administrative costs. Such fund shall be used to increase the  
59 sheriff's annual operating budget and shall not be used to supplant or replace funding  
60 authorized by the county governing authority for the operation of the office of sheriff.

61 (i) Each sheriff shall have sole discretion to determine the manner in which the fund is  
62 allocated for the salaries and benefits of law enforcement officers.

63 (j) The state revenue commissioner is authorized and directed to establish procedures and  
64 promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this Code section.

65 (k) This Code section shall stand repealed by operation of law on July 1, 2028."

66 **SECTION 2.**

67 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
68 without such approval.

69

**SECTION 3.**

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