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WATERS OF THE STATE, PORTS AND WATERCRAFT Notice: Georgia Ports Authority: Venue in Actions

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TITLE 51: TORTS

SB 77 (Act No. 1197); *Libel Actions: Retraction*

This Act amends O.C.G.A. § 51-5-11 by providing that evidence of a plaintiff's request for or failure to request a retraction will be relevant and competent if the request is made in writing at least seven days prior to filing the action. The Act also allows the defendant seven days to print the retraction upon receipt of plaintiff's demand in "as conspicuous and public a manner" as the alleged libel was published. Upon proof that no retraction was demanded or that a retraction was published in the prescribed manner, the defendant is liable to plaintiff only for actual and not punitive damages.

TITLE 52: WATERS OF THE STATE, PORTS, AND WATERCRAFT

SB 338 (Act No. 935); Effective March 18, 1986; *Georgia Ports Authority: Venue in Actions*

The Act amends O.C.G.A. § 52-2-30 by changing the venue in all actions to protect or enforce any rights created by the Georgia Ports Authority Act and all actions brought against the Georgia Ports Authority to the Superior Court of Chatham County. Prior law provided for Fulton County venue. Under the Act, venue for tort actions lies in the county in which the tort is committed, provided the Authority has a facility located in that county. If there is no facility in that county, proper venue is in the Superior Court of Chatham County. Actions filed in Fulton County prior to the effective date of the Act are not affected.