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STATE GOVERNMENT Department of Administrative Services: Change Certain Provisions Relating to the Public Distribution of Legislative Information in Electronic Format To Establish the GeorgiaNet Division of the Georgia Technology Authority; Change Provision Relating to the Keeping of Records of Applications for Licenses and Information on Licenses To Refer to the GeorgiaNet Divisions of the Georgia Technology Authority; Change Provision Relating to Membership in the Retirement System of Officers and Employees of the GeorgiaNet

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Authority To Refer to the Georgia Technology Authority

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STATE GOVERNMENT

Department of Administrative Services: Change Certain Provisions Relating to the Public Distribution of Legislative Information in Electronic Format To Establish the GeorgiaNet Division of the Georgia Technology Authority; Change Provision Relating to the Keeping of Records of Applications for Licenses and Information on Licensees To Refer to the GeorgiaNet Division of the Georgia Technology Authority; Change Provision Relating to Membership in the Retirement System of Officers and Employees of the GeorgiaNet Authority To Refer to the Georgia Technology Authority

CODE SECTIONS: O.C.G.A. §§ 28-3-24.1, 40-5-2, 50-5-10, -11, -160 to -169, -180 to -186, -191 to -202, 50-25-1 to -4 (amended), 50-25-5.1, -7.1 to -7.13 (new), 50-29-1 to -12 (amended)

BILL NUMBER: SB 465

ACT NUMBER: 497

GEORGIA LAWS: 2000 Ga. Laws 249

SUMMARY: The Act establishes the Georgia Technology Authority (GTA), creates the GeorgiaNet Division of the GTA, and amends the number of members on the Electronic Commerce Study Committee. As a new agency, the GTA replaces and assumes the responsibilities of other agencies, committees, or departments, such as the Electronic Data Processing and Printing Committee, the GeorgiaNet Authority, and the Georgia Information Technology Policy Council. The GTA also replaces the Department of Administrative Services (DOAS) as the developer and manager of Georgia's telecommunications operations. The Act further prescribes who will become GTA members and how they will be

appointed. Also, the Act creates the position of Chief Information Officer for Georgia. Additionally, the Act prescribes the proper procedure for bidding, financing, and managing Georgia's technology developments, and the Act reconfigures the governing board of Georgia's Distance Learning and Telemedicine Network. Finally, the Act provides that the GTA will create an Internet site for the General Assembly.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2000

Because the Act affects a number of different Code sections, this *Peach Sheet* analyzes the Act in three parts. Part I provides a historical background on why the General Assembly introduced SB 465 and summarizes the legislative process. Part II tracks SB 465 as it moved through the General Assembly and specifically enumerates the changes throughout the legislative process. Part III analyzes how the Act amends the Georgia Code.

Part I: History of SB 465

When he took office in 1999, Governor Roy Barnes said, "I want our government to run like a 21st-century business, and we will never do it with 1960s' technology."¹ By creating a new technology agency, Governor Barnes aimed to give the public Internet access to contact agencies, to research documents, to obtain licenses, and to conduct other general government business.² Therefore, the General Assembly introduced SB 465 to create the Georgia Technology Authority (GTA).³ Patterned after similar agencies in other states, the GTA may save the state millions of dollars by consolidating the procurement and management of technology in state government and increasing

1. Bill Shipp, *Geek Central*, GEORGIA TREND, Feb. 1, 2000, at 1 (quoting Gov. Roy Barnes).

2. See Ernest Holsendolph, *Barnes Prodding State To Get Online Serving the Public*, ATLANTA J. & CONST., May 3, 2000, at G6.

3. See SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

Internet services.⁴ Additionally, the GTA will ensure that Georgia does not repeat some of its past technology disasters.⁵

Although the state received high marks for progress in e-commerce,⁶ members of the General Assembly saw some negative implications associated with the GTA.⁷ In fact, some of Barnes' friends in the General Assembly feared that the GTA will become a black hole for expenditures.⁸ Currently, state agencies foresee over \$200 million in new systems needed to continue the modernization program.⁹ Representative Terry Coleman, House Appropriations Chairman, said that the General Assembly placed high financial priority on adopting state-wide Internet services, but there is no budgetary line item for the overall cost.¹⁰ Further, other members of the General Assembly, mostly Republicans, thought this agency was just one more example of the Governor "grabbing power" and building bureaucracy.¹¹

However, Barnes's record on improving the state's Internet services gave credibility to the technology plan. Barnes brought Georgia from forty-eighth to first place in how well states use the Internet for government applications.¹² According to Barnes' plan, "geeks" in the private sector computer industry who have the "knowledge and expertise necessary to assure that Georgia develops sound IT policy and procurement"¹³ will manage the GTA.¹⁴

As a sponsor of the bill, Senator Charlie Tanksley also felt that Georgia needed to consolidate and coordinate its technical departments into the GTA for two basic reasons: (1) consolidation will assist in keeping Georgia technology

4. See Bill Rankin & Kathy Pruitt, *Conservationists Back Barnes' Plan*, ATLANTA J. & CONST., Feb. 19, 2000, at E5; see also Shipp, *supra* note 1.

5. See Shipp, *supra* note 1.

6. See Holsendolph, *supra* note 2.

7. See Shipp, *supra* note 1.

8. See *id.*

9. See *id.*

10. See Holsendolph, *supra* note 2.

11. See Shipp, *supra* note 1.

12. See *id.*

13. Electronic Mail Interview with Senator Charlie Tanksley, Senate District No. 32 (July 10, 2000) [hereinafter Tanksley Interview].

14. See *Barnes Wants 'Geeks' for Technology Board*, AUGUSTA CHRON., Apr. 12, 2000, at C11.

advanced and current with the technological trends across the country, and (2) consolidation fosters Georgia's ability to procure technological resources and assure uniformity.¹⁵

As SB 465 passed through the General Assembly, it was changed at each phase of the process.¹⁶ First, the Senate referred the original bill to the Senate Defense, Science and Technology Committee, which favorably reported the bill, as substituted, to the Senate.¹⁷ Second, the Senate adopted a floor substitute and a floor amendment before passing the bill.¹⁸ Third, the House referred the bill to the House State Planning and Community Affairs Committee, which favorably reported the bill, as substituted, to House.¹⁹ Fourth, the House adopted a floor substitute and a floor amendment.²⁰ Fifth, the Senate agreed to the House version but amended the House floor substitute.²¹ Finally, to avoid sending the bill to a conference committee, the House agreed to the Senate amendment to the House floor substitute, and the General Assembly forwarded the bill to the Governor.²² Governor Roy Barnes signed SB 465 into law on April 10, 2000.²³

Part II: Changes During the Legislative Process

As a short summary, the General Assembly changed SB 465 five times: (1) Senate Committee substitute (SCS); (2) Senate floor substitute and floor amendment (SFSFA); (3) House Committee substitute (HCS); (4) House floor substitute and floor amendment (HFSFA); and (5) Senate's final changes to the House floor substitute (as passed).²⁴ Instead of reviewing each

15. See Tanksley Interview, *supra* note 13.

16. See *infra* Part II.

17. See State of Georgia Final Composite Status Sheet, Mar. 22, 2000.

18. See *id.*; see also Georgia Senate Voting Record, SB 465 (Mar. 7, 2000); Audio Recording of Senate Proceedings, Mar. 7, 2000 <<http://www.ganet.org/services/leg/audio/2000archive.html>>.

19. See State of Georgia Final Composite Status Sheet, Mar. 22, 2000.

20. See *id.*; see also Georgia House of Representatives Voting Record, SB 465 (Mar. 22, 2000); Audio Recording of House Proceedings, Mar. 22, 2000 <<http://www.ganet.org/services/leg/audio/2000archive.html>>.

21. See Georgia Senate Voting Record, SB 465 (Mar. 22, 2000); State of Georgia Final Composite Status Sheet, Mar. 22, 2000.

22. See Georgia House of Representatives Voting Record, SB 465 (Mar. 22, 2000); State of Georgia Final Composite Status Sheet, Mar. 22, 2000.

23. See 2000 Ga. Laws 249, § 16, at 283.

24. See State of Georgia Final Composite Status Sheet, Mar. 22, 2000.

draft separately, this part of the *Peach Sheet* reviews each Code section affected by the bill and comments on how each draft of the bill changed that section.

Initially, SB 465 began with seventeen sections; however, the Senate in a floor substitute to the bill removed the section that would have changed Code section 47-2-320.²⁵ Essentially, when the Senate removed this section from the bill, only clerical changes were avoided.

Code Section 28-3-24.1

The House Committee changed Code section 28-3-24.1 in its substitute.²⁶ With the House Committee substitute, the bill was changed to require that the GTA work with the Georgia General Assembly to develop a single Internet site for the General Assembly, and the site's content and format will be determined by the Legislative Services Committee.²⁷

Code Sections 40-5-2, 50-5-10, -11, -160 to -169, -180 to -186

Neither the House nor the Senate changed any parts of SB 465 relating to Code sections 40-5-2, 50-5-10, -11, -160 to -169, or -180 to -186 throughout the legislative process.²⁸

Code Sections 50-5-191 to -202

Code sections 50-5-191 to -202 relate to the Georgia Distance Learning and Telemedicine Act of 1992.²⁹ First, the Senate Committee changed SB 465, in Code section 50-5-196(d), to include e-mail as an adequate means of notice when calling a special meeting of governing board members.³⁰ Second, the

25. Compare SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem. Code section 47-2-320 relates to the retirement system for officers and employees of the GeorgiaNet Authority. See O.C.G.A. § 47-2-320 (Supp. 2000).

26. Compare SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (HCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

27. Compare SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (HCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

28. Compare SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465, as passed, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

29. See O.C.G.A. §§ 50-5-191 to -202 (Supp. 2000).

30. Compare SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

Senate Committee amended Code section 50-5-196(b) to increase the number of members on the Georgia Distance Learning and Telemedicine Governing Board from nine to eleven.³¹ The two additional members are a rural hospital administrator and a rural physician, who are appointed by the Governor because they have telemedicine network experience.³² Due to the increase in the governing board membership, the Senate Committee also amended Code section 50-5-196(d) by increasing the number of members constituting a quorum from four to six, and the number of members, other than the chairperson, required to call a special meeting from four to six.³³

Code Section 50-25-1

The Senate Committee also changed Code section 50-25-1 by moving the language of subsection (d) in the original draft to subsection (e) in the Senate Committee substitute.³⁴ The Senate Committee also added language in subsection (d), as created in the Committee substitute, mandating that the GTA assist political subdivisions and other entities with technology improvements, cost reductions, and general policy initiatives for technology guidance.³⁵ In its final amendments on the floor, the Senate expanded the political subdivisions that the GTA is to assist by including political subdivisions or other entities of local governments.³⁶

Code Section 50-25-2

Code section 50-25-2 sets forth five administrative standards for the GTA: (1) members of the GTA, (2) membership requirements, (3) quorum, (4) voting standards, and (5) responsibilities of the

31. Compare SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

32. Compare SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 405 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

33. Compare SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 405 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

34. Compare SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

35. Compare SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

36. Compare SB 465 (HFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465, as passed, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

GeorgiaNet Division of the GTA.³⁷ In the original draft of SB 465, the Senate authors, in Code section 50-25-2(a), designed the GTA as having nine members.³⁸ These members would have been appointed as follows: one member by the Lieutenant Governor, one member by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and seven members by the Governor.³⁹ All members would have been private sector technology professionals, and their terms would have varied as either one-year (one Lieutenant Governor appointee, one Speaker appointee, and one Governor appointee), two-year (three Governor appointees), or three-year (three Governor appointees); succeeding members would have been appointed for three-year terms.⁴⁰ The Governor would have designated the chairperson, and the GTA would have elected the vice chairperson, secretary, and other positions.⁴¹ Under the original draft, Code section 50-25-2(c) would have required five members for a quorum and four affirmative votes by GTA members for any action to be taken by the GTA.⁴² Code section 50-25-2(d) set forth the duties of the executive director.⁴³ Additionally, under the original draft, Code section 50-25-2(e) would have prescribed the responsibilities of the GeorgiaNet Division of the GTA as information marketing, web site maintenance, and other functions.⁴⁴

The Senate Defense, Science and Technology Committee amended Code section 50-25-2(d) by removing the language describing the executive director's duties.⁴⁵ Also, the Senate Committee increased GeorgiaNet's duties by making them responsible for leasing, licensing, and accessing all public information maintained in electronic format and for coordinating e-commerce applications.⁴⁶

37. See O.C.G.A. § 50-25-2 (Supp. 2000).

38. See SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

39. See *id.*

40. See *id.*

41. See *id.*

42. See *id.*

43. See *id.*

44. See *id.*

45. Compare SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

46. Compare SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

The House State Planning & Community Affairs Committee amended Code section 50-25-2(a) by decreasing the number of members on the GTA to eight members and adding one non-voting *ex officio* member.⁴⁷ The House Committee set forth that the Lieutenant Governor would appoint two members, the Speaker of the House of Representatives would appoint two members, the Governor would appoint three members, and the Governor would have become a member of the GTA.⁴⁸ Either the Governor, or his/her designee, would serve as the GTA's chairperson.⁴⁹ The terms of the members' appointments also changed: The Lieutenant Governor would appoint one one-year member and one three-year member, the Speaker would appoint one one-year member and one three-year member, the Governor would appoint two one-year members and one three-year member; succeeding members would be appointed for three-year terms.⁵⁰ The Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court would also appoint one *ex officio* non-voting member.⁵¹

Finally, in its floor substitute, the House increased the number of committee members from eight to eleven, retaining an *ex officio* member, and increasing quorum and affirmative voting requirements.⁵²

Code Section 50-25-3

SB 465, in Code section 50-25-3, originally assigned the GTA to the Office of Planning and Budget for administrative purposes,⁵³ but the House Committee changed that in its

47. Compare SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (HCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

48. Compare SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (HCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

49. Compare SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (HCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

50. Compare SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (HCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

51. Compare SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (HCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

52. Compare SB 465 (HCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (HFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

53. See SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

substitute.⁵⁴ The House Committee changed Code section 50-25-3 back to the original Code language, thus assigning GTA for administrative purposes to the Department of Administrative Services (DOAS).⁵⁵

Code Section 50-25-4

Code section 50-25-4 relates to the general powers of the GTA.⁵⁶ This Code section contains several subsections, which changed numerous times as SB 465 passed through the General Assembly.

In the original draft, Code section 50-25-4(a)(10) explained that the GTA should set technology policy for the executive branch of state government, including all agencies.⁵⁷ However, on the Senate floor, the Senate narrowed the scope of the GTA's power by inserting an exception for any agency under the authority, direction, or control of state-wide elected officials other than the Governor.⁵⁸ The House Committee expanded this exception to include agencies under the authority, direction, or control of the General Assembly.⁵⁹

In the original draft, Code section 50-25-4(a)(12) prescribed that the GTA should review and approve technology budgets for all agencies.⁶⁰ The Senate removed this language in its floor substitute.⁶¹ After the Senate removed subsection (a)(12), the following subsections were renumbered (i.e., subsection (a)(13) became (a)(12), and subsection (a)(14) became (a)(13), etc.).⁶²

In the original draft, Code section 50-25-4(a)(13) provided that the GTA should provide oversight and program management

54. Compare SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (HCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

55. Compare SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (HCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

56. See O.C.G.A. § 50-25-4 (Supp. 2000).

57. See SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

58. Compare SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

59. Compare SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (HCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

60. See SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

61. Compare SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

62. Compare SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

for all technology resources.⁶³ After the Senate redacted the language in the former Code Section 50-25-4(a)(12), Code section 50-25-4(a)(13) took its place, but the Senate also amended, now Code section 50-25-4(a)(12), to include only oversight on projects with a cumulative value of over \$1 million invested.⁶⁴

In the original draft, Code section 50-25-4(a)(18) established a standing advisory committee, comprised of members from each agency, who would make recommendations to the GTA on policy, standards, and architecture.⁶⁵ The Senate Committee changed Code section 50-25-4(a)(18) from a standing committee to a committee which will meet from time to time.⁶⁶ After the Senate's changes in the floor substitute, subsection (a)(18) moved to subsection (a)(17).⁶⁷ The Senate also amended, now Code section 50-25-4(a)(18) to include agencies in the group of state entities for which the GTA is to coordinate technology policy.⁶⁸

The Senate Committee added Code section 50-25-4(a)(26) in its substitute.⁶⁹ Code section 50-25-4(a)(26), now Code section 50-25-4(a)(25),⁷⁰ prescribed that the GTA should provide and approve a plan to increase the use of telecommuting among state employees.⁷¹

In the original draft, Code section 50-25-4(a)(28) required the GTA to appoint, select, and employ officers, agents, and employees to contract for personal services, and establish provisions, such as employee benefits, for the contracted

63. See SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

64. Compare SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

65. See SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

66. Compare SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

67. Compare SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

68. Compare SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

69. Compare SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

70. Compare SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

71. Compare SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., and SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

services.⁷² However, the Senate Committee redacted this section in the Committee substitute.⁷³

In the original draft, Code section 50-25-4(a)(30) provided that the GTA should establish and enforce standard specifications that should apply to all state agencies.⁷⁴ In the Senate floor substitute, this became Code section 50-25-4(a)(29), and the Senate refined this standard by insisting that the state standards be consistent with industry accepted open network architecture standards.⁷⁵

The original draft of SB 465 also proposed Code section 50-25-4(c) to require that the GTA appoint a director for the GeorgiaNet Division.⁷⁶ However, the House Committee completely removed subsection (c) from Code section 50-25-4, as proposed in the bill.⁷⁷

Code Section 50-25-5.1

Code section 50-25-5.1 is a new section that creates the position of Georgia's Chief Information Officer (CIO).⁷⁸ In the original draft of SB 465, Code section 50-25-5.1(b)(6) would have required the CIO to perform such other duties as the GTA may direct from time to time.⁷⁹ However, in the Senate Committee substitute, subsection (b)(6) became subsection (b)(8) because the Committee added two new subsections to expand the CIO's duties.⁸⁰ In Code sections 50-25-5.1(b)(6)-(7), the Senate Committee empowered the CIO to hire and manage officers, agents, and employees, and it empowered the CIO to create contracts with services or individuals not employed full time by the GTA.⁸¹

72. See SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

73. Compare SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

74. See SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

75. Compare SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

76. See SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

77. Compare SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (HCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

78. See O.C.G.A. § 50-25-5.1 (Supp. 2000).

79. See SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

80. Compare SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

81. Compare SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga.

Code Sections 50-25-7.1 to -7.13

In the original draft, Code section 50-25-7.1(d) would have required the chairpersons of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to become members of a steering committee for the GTA.⁸² However, the Senate Committee allowed the chairpersons to appoint designees to act in their steads.⁸³

In the original draft, Code section 50-25-7.2 would have prescribed that all agencies contract through the GTA for any technology resources.⁸⁴ The Senate floor substitute changed this responsibility by limiting contracting through the GTA to contracts exceeding \$100,000, also providing that this Code section would not apply to agency personnel tasked with the planning, implementation, and support of technology.⁸⁵ Additionally, the House Committee further amended Code section 50-25-7.2 by adding subsections.⁸⁶ Subsection (a) stated that no agency shall divide purchases to avoid the measures set forth in Code section 50-25-7.2 and -7.3, and subsection (b) exempts any agency purchasing less than \$50,000 from contracting through the GTA.⁸⁷ Further, by adding subsection (c), the House Committee mandates that all purchases be in accordance with the standards established by the GTA.⁸⁸ However, the full House amended this House substitute by ensuring that compliance with Code section 50-25-7.2(c) will not create non-compliance with federal standards.⁸⁹

Gen. Assem.

82. *See* SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

83. *Compare* SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., *with* SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

84. *See* SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

85. *Compare* SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., *with* SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

86. *Compare* SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., *with* SB 465 (HCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

87. *Compare* SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., *with* SB 465 (HCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

88. *Compare* SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., *with* SB 465 (HCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

89. *Compare* SB 465 (HCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., *with* SB 465 (HFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

In the original draft, Code section 50-25-7.3 related to the bidding and good faith provisions of contracting with the GTA.⁹⁰ Code section 50-25-7.3(a) would have ensured that no officer, employee, or member of the GTA received any kickbacks for contracts relating to the GTA.⁹¹ In its floor substitute, the Senate altered this Code section by implementing a competitive sealed bidding contest for contracts exceeding \$100,000 and advertising in the *Georgia Register* for bids when the contract exceeds \$250,000.⁹² Further, the Senate floor substitute introduced seven subsections, (a)(1)-(7), which describe the process of handling proposals.⁹³ Subsection (a)(1) only allowed the advertised procedure when the GTA decides that competitive sealed bidding is not advantageous for or practicable by the state.⁹⁴ Subsections (a)(2)-(5) summarized how to advertise and receive proposals and described the required content of the proposals.⁹⁵ Subsection (a)(6) resolved issues about the offerors not completing their offer/bid and prohibited disclosure of information to competing offerors.⁹⁶ Subsection (a)(7) mandated that the offer that is accepted must be the offer most advantageous to the state.⁹⁷

The House Committee amended the Senate version of this Code section by permitting advertising when the contract bid exceeds \$100,000 in Code section 50-25-7.3(a).⁹⁸ The House Committee removed subsection (a)(1), essentially mandating the solicitation of bids when the contract exceeds \$100,000.⁹⁹

90. See SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

91. See *id.*

92. Compare SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem, with SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

93. Compare SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem, with SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

94. Compare SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem, with SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

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97. Compare SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem, with SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

98. Compare SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (HCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

99. Compare SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (HCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

Subsections (a)(2)-(5) became (a)(1)-(4) with some small changes, such as: the proposals no longer have to be opened in the same manner as competitive sealed bids, and the requests for proposals should describe evaluation factors to be considered in the award of the contract.¹⁰⁰ Subsection (a)(5), formerly (a)(6), was changed by further providing that all vendors must comply with the technology standards established by the GTA.¹⁰¹ Subsection (a)(6), formerly (a)(7), stayed essentially the same.¹⁰²

In its final changes before passage, the Senate amended the House version of this Code section by mandating, in Code section 50-25-7.3(a), that all contracts be awarded by soliciting competitive sealed bids and competitive sealed proposals.¹⁰³ The Senate also removed the requirement of advertising in the *Georgia Register*.¹⁰⁴ The Senate further amended Code section 50-25-7.3(a)(5) to allow for discussions and revisions, but it does not allow disclosure of information in a sealed proposal or bid.¹⁰⁵ The Senate also amended Code section 50-25-7.3(a)(6) to ensure compliance with the GTA's standards for architecture and the most advantageous contract for the state.¹⁰⁶

In the original draft, Code section 50-25-7.3(b) would have ensured that all bids were submitted without collusion with other bidders.¹⁰⁷ In its floor substitute, the Senate amended subsection (b) by adding details about the time, place, and manner of bids to guarantee that the bid is awarded to the lowest bidder complying with GTA standards.¹⁰⁸ The House Committee amended this subsection by allowing the GTA to set

100. Compare SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (HCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

101. Compare SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (HCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

102. Compare SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (HCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

103. Compare SB 465 (HFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465, as passed, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

104. Compare SB 465 (HFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465, as passed, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

105. Compare SB 465 (HFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465, as passed, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

106. Compare SB 465 (HFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465, as passed, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

107. See SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

108. Compare SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

forth the rules and regulations of the bidding process.¹⁰⁹ The Senate then amended the House version by setting forth in subsection (b) the provision that the bid may be negotiated or rejected.¹¹⁰

In the original draft, Code sections 50-25-7.3(c)-(d) prescribed procedures for bidders who do not comply with subsections (a) and (b).¹¹¹ The Senate changed these subsections to include provisions about recording the bidder's name, providing an escape provision of negotiation when the bids exceed the amount of funds available, and creating a certificate of authenticity for each sealed bid.¹¹² The House Committee amended the language, but it required the GTA to notify each bidder that the bids were not acceptable.¹¹³ The Senate, in the final draft, revised subsections (c)-(e) because subsection (b) resolved most of the issues addressed in those subsections; however, the Senate retained the provisions about recording and opening the bids in public.¹¹⁴ The House Committee also established subsection (f), now subsection (e), to allow the GTA to promulgate its own rules for the bidding process.¹¹⁵

In the original draft of Code section 50-25-7.4, the Senate authors prescribed that the GTA's executive director would have provided quarterly accounting reports to the Office of Planning and Budget.¹¹⁶ The Senate completely changed this provision in its floor substitute, and now, instead of requiring quarterly accounting updates, this Code section allows for pre-qualifying prospective suppliers.¹¹⁷

109. *Compare* SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., *with* SB 465 (HCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

110. *Compare* SB 465 (HFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., *with* SB 465, as passed, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

111. *See* SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

112. *Compare* SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., *with* SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

113. *Compare* SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., *with* SB 465 (HCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

114. *Compare* SB 465 (HFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., *with* SB 465, as passed, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

115. *Compare* SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., *with* SB 465 (HCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., *and* SB 465, as passed, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

116. *See* SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

117. *Compare* SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., *with* SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

In the original draft, Code section 50-25-7.5 would have allowed the Governor to transfer the technology resources of all agencies.¹¹⁸ The Senate changed this section by allowing purchases of \$2500 or less without competitive bidding.¹¹⁹

In the original draft, Code section 50-25-7.6 related to accounting principles, but because the Senate added Code sections 50-25-7.7 to -7.11 in the floor substitute, the Senate set forth the accounting principles in Code section 50-25-7.12.¹²⁰

Code sections 50-25-7.6, -7.8 to -7.10 remained unchanged after being added in the Senate floor substitute.¹²¹

The House Committee changed Code section 50-25-7.7 in subsection (b), where instead of the executive director deciding what would benefit the GTA and the state, the executive secretary to the Governor makes this determination.¹²² The House Committee also expanded the scope of Code section 50-25-7.11 to include the General Assembly.¹²³ Finally, the House Committee added Code section 50-25-7.13 to the bill to prohibit the GTA from violating copyright laws.¹²⁴

Code Sections 50-29-1 to -11

The original version of SB 465 would have struck all language in Code sections 50-29-1 to -11 and reserved those Code sections for future use.¹²⁵ However, the House Committee included in 50-29-1 that the GTA becomes the successor to all the responsibilities of the Georgia Information Technology Policy Council.¹²⁶

118. See SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

119. Compare SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

120. Compare SB 465 (SCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

121. Compare SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465, as passed, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

122. Compare SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (HCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

123. Compare SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (HCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

124. Compare SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (HCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

125. See SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

126. Compare SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (HCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

Code Section 50-29-12

In the original draft, Code Section 50-29-12 would have included thirteen members on the Electronic Commerce Study Committee.¹²⁷ The House Committee changed the number to eleven members,¹²⁸ and the Senate compromised at twelve members.¹²⁹

Part III: The Act

The Act amends Code section 28-3-24.1(b) by setting forth that the GTA must work with the General Assembly to create an Internet site for the General Assembly.¹³⁰ Additionally, the Legislative Services Committee determines the site's content and format.¹³¹ The Act also amends Code section 40-5-2(c)(1)(F) and subsection (d) by adding the correct title of the new agency as the GeorgiaNet Division of the Georgia Technology Authority.¹³²

The Act amends Code sections 50-5-10 and -11 by striking all language and reserving those Code sections for future use.¹³³ The former Code sections had created, within the DOAS, an Electronic Data Processing and Printing Committee and outlined the Electronic Data Processing and Printing Committee's duties and parameters.¹³⁴

The Act strikes Code sections 50-5-160 to -169 and reserves those Code sections for future use.¹³⁵ These former Code sections had set forth the Telecommunications Consolidation

127. See SB 465, as introduced, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

128. Compare SB 465 (SFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465 (HCS), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

129. Compare SB 465 (HFSFA), 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem., with SB 465, as passed, 2000 Ga. Gen. Assem.

130. Compare 1995 Ga. Laws 720, § 1, at 721 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. § 28-3-24.1(b) (1997)), with O.C.G.A. § 28-3-24.1(b) (Supp. 2000).

131. See O.C.G.A. § 28-3-24.1(b) (Supp. 2000).

132. Compare 1997 Ga. Laws 1446, § 2, at 1447 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. § 40-5-2(c)(1)(F), (d) (1997)), with O.C.G.A. § 40-5-2(c)(1)(F), (d) (Supp. 2000).

133. Compare 1988 Ga. Laws 855, § 27, at 872 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. § 50-5-10 (1998)), and 1972 Ga. Laws 1015, § 4, at 1021-23 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. § 50-5-11 (1998)), with O.C.G.A. §§ 50-5-10, -11 (Supp. 2000).

134. See 1986 Ga. Laws 855, § 27, at 872 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. § 50-5-10 (1998)); 1972 Ga. Laws 1015, § 4, at 1021-23 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. § 50-5-11 (1998)).

135. Compare 1973 Ga. Laws 1261, §§ 1-9, at 1261-64 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. §§ 50-5-160 to -169 (1998)), with O.C.G.A. §§ 50-5-160 to -169 (Supp. 2000).

Act, which included: defining the telecommunications system, defining the legislators' intent, declaring the DOAS as the department which would develop and manage Georgia's telecommunications operations, describing DOAS's powers and duties regarding contracts and billing, and outlining how other departments would interact with DOAS.¹³⁶

The Act strikes Code sections 50-5-180 to -186 and reserves those Code sections for future use.¹³⁷ These former Code sections had set forth the Public Safety Radio Services Act, which included: defining public safety radio services; defining the legislators' intent; establishing guidelines for the development and implementation of a system for channel searches, license applications, and regional plans; requiring the DOAS to promote joint use and manage economical delivery of services; detailing how other agencies would interact with the department; and creating the appeals board.¹³⁸

The Act also amends Code sections 50-5-191 to -202.¹³⁹ The Act amends Code sections 50-5-191 to -194 by revising the language in the bill to comport with the creation of the GTA.¹⁴⁰ The Act amends Code section 50-5-196 by changing the senior staff member's title from Commissioner of Administrative Services to Executive Director of the GTA and by increasing the number of governing board members from nine to eleven.¹⁴¹ The two new governing board members are a rural hospital administrator and a rural physician, who have telemedicine network experience; both are appointed by the Governor.¹⁴² This part of the Act also increases quorum for a governing board meeting from four to six members and allows six members, or

136. See 1973 Ga. Laws 1261, §§ 1-9, at 1261-64 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. §§ 50-5-160 to -169 (1998)).

137. Compare 1975 Ga. Laws 1642, §§ 1-7, at 1642-45 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. §§ 50-5-180 to -186 (1998)), with O.C.G.A. §§ 50-5-180 to -186 (Supp. 2000).

138. See 1975 Ga. Laws 1642, §§ 1-7, at 1642-45 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. §§ 50-5-180 to -186 (1998)).

139. Compare 1992 Ga. Laws 480, § 1, at 481-89 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. §§ 50-5-191 to -202 (1998)), with O.C.G.A. §§ 50-5-191 to -202 (Supp. 2000).

140. Compare 1992 Ga. Laws 480, § 1, at 481-89 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. §§ 50-5-191 to -194 (1998)), with O.C.G.A. §§ 50-5-191 to -194 (Supp. 2000).

141. Compare 1992 Ga. Laws 480, § 1, at 481-89 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. § 50-5-196 (1998)), with O.C.G.A. § 50-5-196 (Supp. 2000).

142. Compare 1992 Ga. Laws 480, § 1, at 481-89 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. § 50-5-196 (1998)), with O.C.G.A. § 50-5-196 (Supp. 2000).

the executive director, to call a special meeting of the governing board.¹⁴³ The Act amends Code sections 50-5-197 to -201 by changing the language in the statute to comport with the creation of the GTA.¹⁴⁴ The Act amends Code section 50-5-202 by making similar clerical changes and having the GTA, not the Commissioner, set the terms and conditions for allowing non-profit schools and medical facilities to participate in the program.¹⁴⁵

The Act amends Code section 50-25-1 by striking all language and drafting a new Code section.¹⁴⁶ The former Code section had created the GeorgiaNet Authority, defined its terms, and established its purpose.¹⁴⁷ The new Code section creates the GTA and vests all rights from the former GeorgiaNet Authority into the GTA.¹⁴⁸ The Act also defines new terms related to the GTA, such as: agency, authority, board, chairperson, Chief Information Officer, file, GeorgiaNet Division, local government, private sector, and public safety radio services.¹⁴⁹ Additionally, the Act establishes the purpose of the GTA, which is to procure technology resources, to manage technology enterprise and portfolio, and to centralize the marketing, sale, and leasing/licensing of public information maintained in electronic format.¹⁵⁰

The Act amends Code section 50-25-2 by redefining who is on the GTA and how those members are appointed.¹⁵¹ Each member must be employed in the private sector and have experience in technology issues.¹⁵² The Governor appoints seven

143. *Compare* 1992 Ga. Laws 480, § 1, at 481-89 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. § 50-5-196 (1998)), *with* O.C.G.A. § 50-5-196 (Supp. 2000).

144. *Compare* 1992 Ga. Laws 480, § 1, at 481-89 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. §§ 50-5-197 to -201 (1998)), *with* O.C.G.A. §§ 50-5-197 to -201 (Supp. 2000).

145. *Compare* 1992 Ga. Laws 480, § 1, at 481-89 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. § 50-5-202 (1998)), *with* O.C.G.A. § 50-5-202 (Supp. 2000).

146. *Compare* 1990 Ga. Laws 1566, § 1, at 1566-72 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. § 50-25-1 (1998)), *with* O.C.G.A. § 50-25-1 (Supp. 2000).

147. *See* 1990 Ga. Laws 1566, § 1, at 1566-72 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. § 50-25-1 (1998)).

148. *See* O.C.G.A. § 50-25-1(a) (Supp. 2000).

149. *See id.* § 50-25-1(b).

150. *See id.* § 50-25-1(c).

151. *Compare* 1990 Ga. Laws 1566, § 1, at 1566-72 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. § 50-25-2 (1998)), *and* 1991 Ga. Laws 425, §§ 1-6, at 425-29 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. § 50-25-2 (1998)), *with* O.C.G.A. § 50-25-2 (Supp. 2000).

152. *See* O.C.G.A. § 50-25-2(a) (Supp. 2000).

members, four to serve a one-year term and three to serve a three-year term, and selects the chairperson.¹⁵³ The Lieutenant Governor appoints two members, one to serve one year and one to serve three years, and the Speaker of the House appoints two members, one for a one-year term and one for a three-year term.¹⁵⁴ The Act also includes an *ex-officio*, non-voting member appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.¹⁵⁵

In Code section 50-25-2(b) of this Code section, the Act establishes policies for expense allowances.¹⁵⁶ In subsection (c), the Act establishes seven members as quorum for a meeting and requires six votes in order for the GTA to take any action.¹⁵⁷ In subsection (d) of this Code section, the Act revises any language referring to the board appointing an executive director and the salary information, thereby establishing that the executive director of the GTA will have the title of Chief Information Officer, which is defined in Code section 50-25-5.1.¹⁵⁸

The Act amends Code section 50-25-3 by striking the old language and setting forth the administration of the GTA's legal services.¹⁵⁹ Incidentally, the language is identical to the former version.¹⁶⁰

The Act amends Code section 50-25-4 by adding new language to expand the GTA's powers.¹⁶¹ The new language, in subsections (a)(8)-(30), grants to the GTA the following new powers: the GTA sets standards, dictates policy, and approves technology planning for most Georgia agencies; the GTA sets procedures for procuring technology resources for Georgia agencies; the GTA establishes the architecture for state technology and systems for the management of the state's

153. *See id.*

154. *See id.*

155. *See id.*

156. *See id.* § 50-25-2(b).

157. *See id.* § 50-25-2(c).

158. *See id.* § 50-25-2(d).

159. Compare 1990 Ga. Laws 1566, § 1, at 1566-72 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. § 50-25-3 (1998)), with O.C.G.A. § 50-25-3 (Supp. 2000).

160. Compare 1990 Ga. Laws 1566, § 1, at 1566-72 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. § 50-25-3 (1998)), with O.C.G.A. § 50-25-3 (Supp. 2000).

161. Compare 1990 Ga. Laws 1566, § 1, at 1566-72 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. § 50-25-4 (1998)), and 1991 Ga. Laws 425, § 3, at 427-28 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. § 50-25-4 (1998)), with O.C.G.A. § 50-25-4 (Supp. 2000).

financial resources; and other more specifically enumerated powers.¹⁶²

The Act creates Code section 50-25-5.1, which introduces the position of Chief Information Officer (CIO) for the State of Georgia.¹⁶³ The CIO is appointed and removed by a majority vote of the full membership of the GTA.¹⁶⁴ This Code section also prescribes the CIO's duties.¹⁶⁵

The Act also creates new Code sections 50-25-7.1 to -7.13.¹⁶⁶ Each of these new Code sections relates to the funding and contracting procedures established for the GTA.¹⁶⁷ Section 50-25-7.1 creates a technology empowerment fund which will be comprised of monies appropriated or otherwise available to the GTA as the board determines.¹⁶⁸ Section 50-25-7.2 establishes that contracting over \$100,000 must be done through the GTA.¹⁶⁹ Section 50-25-7.3 outlines the contracting process and ensures sealed bids.¹⁷⁰ Section 50-25-7.4 establishes methods for pre-qualifying prospective suppliers.¹⁷¹ According to Code section 50-25-7.5, no bidding is required for purchases of less than \$2500.¹⁷² Section 50-25-7.6 prescribes that in an emergency, the GTA may purchase from the open market.¹⁷³ Section 50-25-7.7 prohibits financial interest by the executives or employees.¹⁷⁴ Section 50-25-7.8 voids any contracts not executed pursuant to this chapter.¹⁷⁵ Section 50-25-7.9 defines 'person' and prohibits persons from purchasing through the GTA or selling property owned by the GTA.¹⁷⁶ Section 50-25-7.10 requires quarterly reports.¹⁷⁷ Section 50-25-7.11 allows the Governor to transfer

162. See O.C.G.A. § 50-25-4(a) (Supp. 2000).

163. See *id.* § 50-25-5.1.

164. See *id.* § 50-25-5.1(a).

165. See *id.* § 50-25-5.1(b).

166. See *id.* §§ 50-25-7.1 to -7.13.

167. See *id.*

168. See *id.* § 50-25-7.1.

169. See *id.* § 50-25-7.2.

170. See *id.* § 50-25-7.3.

171. See *id.* § 50-25-7.4.

172. See *id.* § 50-25-7.5.

173. See *id.* § 50-25-7.6.

174. See *id.* § 50-25-7.7.

175. See *id.* § 50-25-7.8.

176. See *id.* § 50-25-7.9.

177. See *id.* § 50-25-7.10.

technology resources to the GTA.¹⁷⁸ Section 50-25-7.12 prescribes the budgeting and accounting systems.¹⁷⁹ Finally, section 50-25-7.13 establishes that the GTA shall not violate copyright laws.¹⁸⁰

The Act strikes Code sections 50-29-1 to -11 and states that the GTA is the successor to the Georgia Information Technology Policy Council.¹⁸¹ The former Code section, known as the Information Technology Policy Act of 1995, had set forth technology policy and encouraged Georgia agencies to become more technology based.¹⁸² The former Code section had also established the Georgia Information Technology Policy Council, which was comprised of nine members from state agencies, two members from local governments, and seven members from the private sector.¹⁸³ The rest of the former Code sections established procedures for conducting meetings, contracting, and interacting with other agencies.¹⁸⁴

Finally, the Act amends Code section 50-29-12 by revising the language to comport with creation of the GTA and establishing that the CIO becomes a member of the Electronic Commerce Study Committee.¹⁸⁵ The CIO replaces former members from the GeorgiaNet Authority and the Georgia Information Technology Policy Council.¹⁸⁶ This change also reduces the number of Electronic Commerce Study Committee members to twelve.¹⁸⁷

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178. *See id.* § 50-25-7.11.

179. *See id.* § 50-25-7.12.

180. *See id.* § 50-25-7.13.

181. *Compare* 1995 Ga. Laws 761, § 1, at 761 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. §§ 50-29-1 to -11 (1998)), *with* O.C.G.A. §§ 50-29-1 to -11 (Supp. 2000). *See also* O.C.G.A. § 50-29-1 (Supp. 2000).

182. *See* 1995 Ga. Laws 761, § 1, at 761 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. §§ 50-29-1 to -11 (1998)).

183. *See id.*

184. *See id.*

185. *Compare* 1997 Ga. Laws 1052, § 3, at 1054-56 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. § 50-29-12 (1998)), *and* 1999 Ga. Laws 322, § 1, at 322-23 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. § 50-29-12 (Supp. 1999)), *with* O.C.G.A. § 50-29-12 (Supp. 2000).

186. *Compare* 1999 Ga. Laws 322, § 1, at 322-23 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. § 50-29-12 (Supp. 1999)), *with* O.C.G.A. § 50-29-12 (Supp. 2000).

187. *Compare* 1999 Ga. Laws 322, § 1, at 322-23 (formerly found at O.C.G.A. § 50-29-12 (Supp. 1999)), *with* O.C.G.A. § 50-29-12 (Supp. 2000).