

House Bill 25

By: Representatives Belton of the 112<sup>th</sup>, Hitchens of the 161<sup>st</sup>, Williams of the 168<sup>th</sup>, Blackmon of the 146<sup>th</sup>, Glanton of the 75<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 5 of Chapter 4 of Title 10 and Chapter 1 of Title 13 of the Official Code  
2 of Georgia Annotated, relating to self-service storage facilities and general provisions  
3 regarding contracts, respectively, so as to provide military service members civil relief  
4 concerning certain contractual obligations due to circumstances of active duty; to update a  
5 cross-reference; to provide for definitions; to enhance service member consumer protections  
6 under the law to include certain television, video, and audio programming services, internet  
7 access services, and health spa services; to provide for conditions; to provide for related  
8 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

11 Article 5 of Chapter 4 of Title 10 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
12 self-service storage facilities, is amended by revising Code Section 10-4-214, relating to  
13 compliance with Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, additional rights, duties, and obligations  
14 not impaired, and rights under article additional, as follows:

15 "10-4-214.

16 If the rental agreement is with a service member, the owner shall comply with all terms of  
17 the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. Section ~~501~~ 3901 et seq. Nothing in this  
18 article shall be construed as in any manner impairing or affecting the right of the parties to  
19 create additional rights, duties, and obligations in and by virtue of the rental agreement.

20 The rights provided by this article shall be in addition to all other rights allowed by law to  
21 a creditor against his or her debtor."

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

23 Chapter 1 of Title 13 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general  
24 provisions regarding contracts, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

25 "13-1-16.

26 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

27 (1) 'Health spa' shall have the same meaning as provided for in Code Section 10-1-392.

28 (2) 'Service member' means an active duty member of the regular or reserve component  
29 of the armed forces of the United States, the Georgia National Guard, or the Georgia Air  
30 National Guard on ordered federal duty for a period of 90 days or longer.

31 (b) In addition to the contractual relief provided for under Code Sections 10-4-214,  
32 44-7-22, and 46-5-8, and in furtherance of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C.  
33 Section 3901 et seq., any service member may terminate a contract pursuant to this Code  
34 section if such contract is for:

35 (1) The provision of television, video, or audio programming or internet access through  
36 wireline facilities or a satellite; or

37 (2) Membership or provision of services by a health spa, notwithstanding any provisions  
38 of Code Section 10-1-393.2.

39 (c) Termination of a contract pursuant to subsection (b) of this Code section shall be  
40 effective only if the service member receives military orders to relocate for a period of  
41 service of at least 90 days to a location that does not support the ability of the service  
42 member to receive identical contracted services under the contract.

43 (d) In terminating a contract pursuant to subsection (b) of this Code section, the service  
44 member shall provide the other contractual party with a written notice of termination to be  
45 effective on the date stated in the notice that is at least 30 days after the other contractual  
46 party's receipt of the notice. Such notice shall be accompanied by either a copy of the  
47 official military orders or a written verification signed by the service member's  
48 commanding officer indicating the relocation.

49 (e) The provisions of this Code section shall apply to all contracts provided for under  
50 subsection (b) of this Code section entered into on or after July 1, 2019, and to any  
51 renewals, modifications, or extensions of such agreements in effect on such date. The  
52 provisions of this Code section may not be waived or modified by the agreement of the  
53 parties under any circumstances."

54 **SECTION 3.**

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