THE STATE OF GEORGIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER

BY THE GOVERNOR:

REDUCING GRAND JURY REGULATIONS TO ASSIST THE STATE'S RESPONSE TO THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

WHEREAS: On March 14, 2020, due to the impact of COVID-19 on the State of Georgia, I issued Executive Order No. 03.14.20.01, declaring a Public Health State of Emergency in Georgia; and

WHEREAS: The Georgia General Assembly concurred with Executive Order 03.14.20.01 by joint resolution on March 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS: On April 8, 2020 I renewed the Public Health State of Emergency until May 13, 2020 by issuing Executive Order 04.08.20.02; and

WHEREAS: On April 30, 2020, I renewed the Public Health State of Emergency until June 12, 2020 by issuing Executive Order 04.30.20.01; and

WHEREAS: On May 28, 2020, I renewed the Public Health State of Emergency until July 12, 2020 by issuing Executive Order 05.28.20.01; and

WHEREAS: On June 29, 2020, I renewed the Public Health State of Emergency until August 11, 2020 by issuing Executive Order 06.29.20.01; and

WHEREAS: On July 31, 2020, I renewed the Public Health State of Emergency until September 10, 2020 by issuing Executive Order 07.31.20.01; and

WHEREAS: On August 31, 2020, I renewed the Public Health State of Emergency until October 10, 2020 by issuing Executive Order 08.31.20.01; and

WHEREAS: Certain regulatory statutes, including but not limited to Code Sections 15-12-67 and 15-12-68, may prohibit remote administration of oaths for grand jury purposes; and

WHEREAS: Certain regulatory statutes, including but not limited to Code Section 15-12-66.1, may prohibit remote attendance of grand jurors and prospective grand jurors; and

WHEREAS: Code Section 38-3-51(c)(4) vests the Governor with the power to perform and exercise such other functions, powers, and duties as may be deemed necessary to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population; and

WHEREAS: Code Section 38-3-51(d)(1) vests the Governor with the power to suspend any statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business, or the orders, rules, or regulations of any state agency if strict compliance with any statute, order, rule, or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency or disaster; and

WHEREAS: In consultation with public health and emergency preparedness officials, I have determined that the following temporary actions are necessary and appropriate to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Georgia's residents and to provide a safe and secure method by which to conduct grand jury proceedings.

NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO CODE SECTION 38-3-51 AND THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, IT IS HEREBY

ORDERED: That any purported requirement of the laws of this state, including but not limited to certain provisions of Code Sections 15-12-67 and 15-12-68, that prohibits remote administration of oaths for grand jury purposes is hereby suspended.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That any purported requirement of the laws of this state, including but not limited to certain provisions of Code Section 15-12-66.1, that prohibits remote attendance of grand jurors and prospective grand jurors is hereby suspended.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That if one or more of the provisions contained in this Order shall be held to be invalid, in violation of the Georgia Constitution, in violation of Georgia law, or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, violation, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provisions of this Order, but, in such case, this Order shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had never been contained within the Order.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: All provisions of the Order shall become effective upon signature and shall expire at the conclusion of the Public Health State of Emergency declared in Executive Order 03.14.20.01 and renewed by Executive Orders 04.08.20.01, 04.30.20.01, 05.28.20.01, 06.29.20.01, 07.31.20.01, and 08.31.20.01. If the Public Health State of Emergency declared in Executive Order 03.14.20.01 is further renewed, this Order shall carry forward with the Public Health State of Emergency until such state of emergency is terminated or ceases to be renewed by the Governor.

This 10TH day of September 2020, at 1:00 ~~A.M.~~/P.M.

B:Ph

GOVERNOR