

**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **HB941 Double Standard of Justice Refutes Authors' Claims**

ATLANTA GA – At least **171 Georgians have been killed by law enforcement none of whom were prosecuted under the law** based on a landmark October, 2015 [in depth study](#) produced by the Atlanta Journal Constitution (AJC) in their [Over the Line](#) investigative report series. Many of those Georgians killed had no criminal record, were unarmed, were shot in the back and/or were murdered after officers broke into their homes.

The series revealed several key factors that led to cover-ups in many of the 171 cases. First, **Georgia is the only state in the union that allows law enforcers to testify before a grand jury that is considering their indictment.** The special privilege that is given only to “peace officers” conflicts with the Equal Protection clauses of the [Georgia](#) and [U.S. Constitutions](#). Secondly, the series also noted a pattern of **prosecutorial misconduct** where district attorneys who were supposed to prosecute officers actually served as their defense attorney by manipulating or tampering with grand juries and their procedures to protect the officers.

Last year, Rep. Rich Golick and Prosecuting Attorneys Council (PAC) Executive Director Chuck Spahos, [claimed to WSBTV](#) that they would rectify the problem. They recently [introduced](#) HB941 and it passed Golick’s House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee last week. But [HB941](#) not only preserves special privileges for peace officers [\[O.C.G.A. 17-7-52\]](#) and public officials [\[O.C.G.A. 45-11-4\(f\), \(g\)\]](#), it contains at least 10 [double standards](#) to protect them from charges of murder and serious crimes.

Georgia watchdogs predicted last year that a special privilege bill would be introduced to achieve the **opposite** of what the authors claimed. They point to last year’s legislation introduced after errant drug raids resulted in the [murder of Dublin’s David Hooks](#) in his own home and [the maiming of Habersham’s “Bou” “Bou” Phonesavanh](#) while he slept in his crib. The proposed solutions were three bills attempting to legalize no-knock search warrants for the first time in Georgia history. A 2015 [VoterGa story](#) revealed that Mr. Spahos was behind all 3 attempts.

Mr. Spahos was also charged with investigating the murder of David Hooks. That investigation returned no indictment of Laurens County deputies who obtained a faulty warrant, broke into his house and shot him at least twice while he was lying face down on the floor. The procedures used by Mr. Spahos to protect deputies in the Hooks case are eerily similar to those he incorporated into HB941.

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