



International Warehouse Logistics Association

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For Immediate Release

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Georgia Adopts IWLA Proposal to Bring Warehouse Law Into the High Tech Era

August 2, 2010 (DES PLAINES, IL) – The International Warehouse Logistics Association made more progress in its campaign to get states to adopt changes to the Uniform Commercial Code when Georgia became the latest state to do so.

The Georgia state legislature passed legislation adopting the changes, which was signed into law by Governor Sonny Perdue on May 27 and went onto effect on July 1.

The UCC was established in 1952 and is one of a number of uniform acts that have been created to harmonize the law of sales and other commercial transactions in all 50 states. Article 7 of the code pertains to warehouse receipts, bills of lading and other documents of title. In 2003, IWLA began an effort to get the states to adopt a revised Article 7 that allows for many of these documents to be in electronic form.

The new Georgia law also deletes obsolete references to tariffs, classifications and regulations that no longer track modern commercial practices. In addition, it deals with permissible contractual limitations of liability; negotiation and transfer; lien of the carrier or warehousemen on the goods and right to enforce lien in a commercially reasonable manner; altered, lost and stolen instruments; and the effects on holders resulting from insolvency of the warehouse customer.

As of June, IWLA and its members have succeeded in persuading 39 states to adopt the revision. Georgia brings that number to 39. The association currently is working on having other states adopt the revision, and at present is pressing its efforts in Massachusetts, Ohio, Washington and Michigan..

“Article 7 is lifeblood of warehouse industry, and widespread adoption of the revision allows more efficient operation in commerce across state lines,” said Joel D. Anderson, President and Chief Executive Officer of IWLA. “What happened in Georgia is a perfect example of what our commercial warehouse members, working together and with the assistance of the IWLA staff, can accomplish politically for the benefit of the entire industry.”

“This was truly a team effort,” said William Stankiewicz, **Vice President and General Manager of Shippers Warehouse of Georgia, with facilities in Jonesboro, GA, and who first brought the matter to the attention of State Representative Mike Glanton (D-Jonesboro) two years before it was enacted.**

“Article 7 helps to solve many of the emerging issues in the new age of electronic rights and title transfer by incorporating consistent provisions for electronic documents of title. It allows a warehousemen or

common carrier on one side of the country to know what his expectation will be on the other side of the country.”

Robert Doyle, President of Amware Logistics Services, Inc., which operates warehouse facilities in the Atlanta area, commented, “Getting involved in the political process is critical to our industry. There is no substitute for direct constituent involvement in these types of matters and we must be willing to get involved and represent the supply chain industry as strong and educated advocates and ambassadors,” he said.

Frank Anderson, Vice President of RBW Logistics, with facilities in Augusta, GA, also worked on promoting passage of the legislation on the state senate side. “We made sure that it stayed in the forefront of the mind of our State Senator, Ed Tarver (D-Richmond), who agreed to sponsor the legislation in the senate two years ago. This is a perfect example of what members of the industry can accomplish when they work together in a common effort on the state as well as the local and national levels.”

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Since 1891, the International Warehouse Logistics Association has been defining the standards of excellence in warehousing and logistics outsourcing. Based in Des Plaines, IL, IWLA promotes the growth and success of third-party logistics companies by providing its more than 500 member companies with resources, information, education and professional programs designed to advance their businesses and provide greater value to their customers. For more information, visit www.iwla.com