



DeKalb County Government

178 Sams Street
Decatur, Georgia 30030

Agenda Item

File #: 2025-0809

Substitute

6/10/2025

File Status: Preliminary Item

Public Hearing: YES NO

Department: Chief Executive Office

SUBJECT:

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts

An Ordinance to Amend the Code of DeKalb County, Georgia, Chapter 13, Article XI, to replace the Current Body Craft and Tattoo Regulations with Ga. Comp. R. & Regs., Chapter 511-3-8, Subject 511-3-8.01 et seq., Regulating Body Art Promulgated by the Georgia Department of Public Health and for Other Purposes.

Information Contact: Zachary L. Williams, Executive Assistant/Chief Operating Officer

Phone Number: 770-936-5440

PURPOSE:

To consider amending Chapter 13 of Article XI of the Code of DeKalb County to adopt the attached ordinance replacing the existing DeKalb County Code regulating the body art industry, Sections 13-300 - 13-325, with the new statewide regulations, Ga. Comp. R. & Regs., Chapter 511-3-8, Subject 511-3-8.01 et seq. (“the Uniform Code”).

NEED/IMPACT:

DeKalb Public Health has reviewed the Uniform Code and requested that the Governing Authority rescind the County’s current body craft and tattoo regulations and replace it with the Uniform Code.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no cost to the County.

RECOMMENDATION:

To approve the Ordinance amending the Code of DeKalb County, Georgia, Chapter 13, Article XI, to replace the Current Body Craft and Tattoo Regulations with Ga. Comp. R. & Regs., Chapter 511-3-8, Subject 511-3-8.01 et seq., Regulating Body Art Promulgated by the Georgia Department of Public Health and for Other Purposes.

AN ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA, CHAPTER 13, ARTICLE XI, TO REPLACE THE CURRENT BODY CRAFT AND TATTOO REGULATIONS WITH GA. COMP. R. & REGS., CHAPTER 511-3-8, SUBJECT 511-3-8.01 ET SEQ., REGULATING BODY ART PROMULGATED BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the Georgia Constitution tasks the Governing Authority of DeKalb County with enacting ordinances that protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents of DeKalb County; and

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2023, the Georgia Department of Public Health promulgated rules and regulations governing body art, Ga. Comp. R. & Regs., Chapter 511-3-8, Section 511-3-8.01 *et seq.* (“the Uniform code”) pursuant to authority granted in O.C.G.A. § 31-40-1 *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, DeKalb Public Health has thoroughly reviewed the Uniform code and requested that the Governing Authority amend the County’s current body craft and tattoo regulations and replace it with the Uniform Code, identifying the following benefits of the Uniform Code: uniformity in body art regulations throughout Georgia; public health requirements for microblading and cosmetic tattoos; a requirement that body artists pass an exam in their area of artistry to assess their understanding of the rules and regulations; clearer and more efficient requirements for body art studios to have standard operating procedures; more stringent requirements for aftercare instructions; more stringent and clearer requirements for all jewelry used for piercing; and several additional improvements that will benefit the health and safety of artists, clients, and DeKalb Public Health inspectors; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Authority of DeKalb County finds that adopting the Uniform Code will protect the health, safety, and general welfare of all residents of DeKalb County; and

WHEREAS, DeKalb County encourages municipalities within the County to pass the same or similar legislation.

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Governing Authority of DeKalb County, Georgia, that Chapter 13, Article XI of the Code of DeKalb County, as revised 1988, is hereby amended as follows:

PART I. ENACTMENT

By deleting Sections 13-300 through 13-325 in their entirety.

* * *

By adding the following new Section 13-300 and reserving Sections 13-301 through 13-325 as follows:

Sec. 13-300. Adoption of state rules and regulations governing body art.

The Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia governing body art, as currently set out in Ga. Comp. R. & Regs., Chapter 511-3-8, Section 511-3-8.01 *et seq.*, as they currently exist or as may be amended hereafter, are adopted in their entirety by this reference as if set out fully in this section.

Secs. 13-301 – 13-325. Reserved.

PART II. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption by the Board of Commissioners and approval by the Chief Executive Officer.

PART III. SEVERABILITY

Should any section or provision of this ordinance be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole, nor any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be invalid or unconstitutional. All ordinances or resolutions, or parts thereof, in conflict with this ordinance are repealed.

ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this _____ day of _____, 2025.

MICHELLE LONG SPEARS
Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this _____ day of ____, 2025.

LORRAINE COCHRAN-JOHNSON
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

BARBARA SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC

Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED AS TO SUBSTANCE:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ZACHARY L. WILLIAMS

Chief Operating Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

MATTHEW C. WELCH

Interim County Attorney
DeKalb County, Georgia