

House Bill 562

By: Representative Birdsong of the 123<sup>rd</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To abolish the present mode of compensating the coroner of Wilkinson County, known as  
2 the fee system; to provide in lieu thereof an annual salary for the coroner; to provide that all  
3 fees, costs, or other emoluments of said officer shall become the property of the county; to  
4 provide for the collection of all such fees, costs, and emoluments; to provide for periodic  
5 statements; to provide for the payment of the operating expenses of the coroner's office; to  
6 provide for the compensation of the deputy coroner; to provide an effective date; to repeal  
7 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 The present mode of compensating the coroner of Wilkinson County, known as the fee  
11 system, is abolished, and in lieu thereof, an annual salary for such officer is prescribed as  
12 provided in this Act.

13 **SECTION 2.**

14 (a) The coroner of Wilkinson County shall receive an annual base salary in the amount of  
15 \$12,300.00 payable in equal monthly installments from the funds of Wilkinson County.

16 (b) The deputy coroner of Wilkinson County shall continue to receive the fees authorized  
17 in Chapter 16 of Title 45 of the O.C.G.A. for each case in which the deputy coroner performs  
18 the duties of such office.

19 **SECTION 3.**

20 After the effective date of this Act, said coroner shall diligently and faithfully undertake to  
21 collect all fees, fines, forfeitures, commissions, costs, allowances, penalties, funds, moneys,  
22 and all other emoluments and perquisites formerly allowed the coroner as compensation for  
23 his or her services as coroner; shall receive and hold the same in trust for said county as  
24 public moneys; and shall pay the same into the county treasury on or before the fifteenth day

1 of each month next following the month in which they were collected or received. The  
2 provisions of this section shall not apply to fees to which the deputy coroner is entitled  
3 pursuant to this Act and general law.

4 **SECTION 4.**

5 The necessary operating expenses of the coroner's office shall be paid from any funds of the  
6 county available for such purpose. All supplies, materials, furnishings, furniture, utilities,  
7 and equipment, and the repair, replacement, and maintenance thereof, as may be reasonably  
8 required in discharging the official duties of said office, shall be furnished by the county and  
9 shall be paid from any funds of the county available for such purpose. The determination of  
10 such requirements shall be at the sole discretion of the governing authority of Wilkinson  
11 County.

12 **SECTION 5.**

13 In addition to compensation provided for in Section 2 of this Act, the coroner shall be  
14 reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses, including expenses for lodging and meals,  
15 incurred by such officer in carrying out his or her official duties within and outside the  
16 county, but within the state, including attendance at seminars or training required pursuant  
17 to Code Section 45-16-66 of the O.C.G.A.; provided, however, that the coroner shall be  
18 required to submit to the board of commissioners of Wilkinson County an itemized, verified  
19 account of any such expenses; provided, further, that the coroner shall not be reimbursed  
20 more than \$1,800.00 per annum for actual and necessary expenses incurred in carrying out  
21 his or her duties. When using his or her personal automobile in traveling on official business  
22 outside the county, the coroner shall be reimbursed for travel expenses at the legal mileage  
23 rate authorized under Code Section 50-19-7 of the O.C.G.A., as now or hereafter amended.  
24 All expenses provided for in this section shall be paid from the funds of Wilkinson County.  
25 Expenses provided for in this section are in addition to any operating expenses provided for  
26 in Section 4 of this Act.

27 **SECTION 6.**

28 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2002.

29 **SECTION 7.**

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