

House Bill 920

By: Representative Holland of the 157<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

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

13 **SECTION 2.**

14 (a) The coroner of Turner County shall receive an annual base salary in the amount of not  
15 less than \$8,500.00 and not more than \$12,000.00 as shall be established by the board of  
16 commissioners of Turner County, payable in equal monthly installments from the funds of  
17 Turner County; provided, however, that if the state should enact by general law a salary  
18 schedule for coroners which would, but for this local Act, result in the coroner receiving a  
19 higher base salary under the state law, the base salary under this Act shall be set equal to the  
20 salary provided in such general law for coroners.

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

**SECTION 3.**

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2 After the effective date of this Act, said coroner shall diligently and faithfully undertake to  
3 collect all fees, fines, forfeitures, commissions, costs, allowances, penalties, funds, moneys,  
4 and all other emoluments and perquisites formerly allowed the coroner as compensation for  
5 his or her services as coroner; shall receive and hold the same in trust for said county as  
6 public moneys; and shall pay the same into the county treasury on or before the fifteenth day  
7 of each month next following the month in which they were collected or received. The  
8 provisions of this section shall not apply to fees to which the deputy coroner is entitled  
9 pursuant to this Act and general law.

**SECTION 4.**

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

**SECTION 5.**

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

**SECTION 6.**

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

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**SECTION 7.**

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