

House Bill 612

By: Representative Greene of the 134<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 16 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to general provisions applicable to sheriffs, so as to change the qualifications for the  
3 office of sheriff; to provide a penalty; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

5 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

6 Article 1 of Chapter 16 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
7 general provisions applicable to sheriffs, is amended by striking in its entirety subparagraph  
8 (c)(1)(J) of Code Section 15-16-1, relating to qualifications and training of sheriffs, and  
9 inserting in lieu thereof a new subparagraph (c)(1)(J) to read as follows:

10 ~~"(J) Is a registered peace officer as provided in Code Section 35-8-10 or is a certified~~  
11 ~~peace officer as defined in Chapter 8 of Title 35 and such certification is current and in~~  
12 ~~good standing at the time of qualifying as a candidate for the office of sheriff. Any~~  
13 ~~person who is not a registered or certified peace officer at the time such person assumes~~  
14 ~~the office of sheriff shall be required to complete satisfactorily the requirements for~~  
15 ~~certification as a peace officer as provided in Chapter 8 of Title 35 within six months~~  
16 ~~after such person takes office; provided, however, that an extension of the time to~~  
17 ~~complete such requirements may be granted by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards~~  
18 ~~and Training Council upon the presentation of evidence by a sheriff that he or she was~~  
19 ~~unable to complete the basic training course and certification requirements due to~~  
20 ~~illness, injury, military service, or other reasons deemed sufficient by such council. The~~  
21 ~~Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council shall make every effort to~~  
22 ~~ensure that space is available for newly elected sheriffs who are not certified or~~  
23 ~~registered peace officers to attend the course as soon as possible after such persons take~~  
24 ~~office. Such council shall notify the appropriate judge of the probate court whenever~~  
25 ~~a newly elected sheriff who is not certified fails to become certified as a peace officer~~  
26 ~~pursuant to the requirements of this subparagraph."~~

1 **SECTION 2.**

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