

House Bill 255 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Hill of the 81st, Marin of the 66th, Floyd of the 69th, Post 2, Casas of the 68th, Sinkfield of the 50th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 15-6-77 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 superior court fees and construction of other fee provisions, so as to provide that interpreters
3 are provided to petitioners in temporary protective order hearings; to provide for related
4 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Code Section 15-6-77 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to superior court
8 fees and construction of other fee provisions, is amended by striking paragraph (4) of
9 subsection (e) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

10 "(4) No fee or cost shall be assessed for any service rendered by the clerk of superior
11 court through entry of judgment in family violence cases under Chapter 13 of Title 19 or
12 in connection with the filing, issuance, registration, or service of a protection order or a
13 petition for a prosecution order to protect a victim of domestic violence, stalking, or
14 sexual assault. A petitioner seeking a temporary protective order or a respondent
15 involved in a temporary protective order hearing under the provisions of Code Section
16 19-13-3 or 19-13-4 shall be provided with a foreign language or sign language interpreter
17 when necessary for the hearing on the petition. The reasonable cost of the interpreter
18 shall be paid by the local victim assistance funds as provided by Article 8 of Chapter 21
19 of this title. The provisions of this paragraph shall control over any other conflicting
20 provisions of law and shall specifically control over the provisions of Code Sections
21 15-6-77.1, 15-6-77.2, and 15-6-77.3."

22 **SECTION 2.**

23 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.