

House Bill 641

By: Representatives Reese of the 98th, Mills of the 25th, and Coan of the 101st

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To provide for a homestead exemption from City of Buford ad valorem taxes for municipal
2 purposes in the amount of \$22,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead after a five-year
3 phase-in period for residents of the City of Buford; to provide for definitions; to specify the
4 terms and conditions of the exemption and the procedures relating thereto; to provide for
5 applicability; to provide for a referendum, effective dates, and automatic repeal; to repeal
6 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 (a) As used in this Act, the term:

10 (1) "Ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes" means all ad valorem taxes for municipal
11 purposes levied by, for, or on behalf of the City of Buford, except for taxes levied for the
12 purposes of the City of Buford Fire District and any ad valorem taxes to pay interest on
13 and to retire municipal bonded indebtedness.

14 (2) "Homestead" means homestead as defined and qualified in Code Section 48-5-40 of
15 the O.C.G.A., as amended, with the additional qualification that it shall include only the
16 primary residence and not more than one contiguous acre of land immediately
17 surrounding such residence.

18 (b)(1) Each resident of the City of Buford is granted an exemption on that person's
19 homestead from all City of Buford ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes, as follows:

20	Amount of exemption of	Tax year beginning
21	<u>assessed value of homestead</u>	<u>date for exemption</u>
22	\$4,400.00	January 1, 2006
23	\$8,800.00	January 1, 2007
24	\$13,200.00	January 1, 2008

1 conduct that election as provided by general law. The municipal election superintendent
 2 shall cause the date and purpose of the election to be published once a week for two weeks
 3 immediately preceding the date thereof in the official organ of Gwinnett County. The ballot
 4 shall have written or printed thereon the words:

5 " YES Shall the Act be approved which provides a homestead exemption from City
 6 of Buford ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in the amount of
 7 NO \$22,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of the City
 of Buford after a five-year phase-in period?"

8 All persons desiring to vote for approval of the Act shall vote "Yes," and all persons desiring
 9 to vote for rejection of the Act shall vote "No." If more than one-half of the votes cast on
 10 such question are for approval of the Act, Section 1 of this Act shall become of full force and
 11 effect on January 1, 2006. If the Act is not so approved or if the election is not conducted
 12 as provided in this section, Section 1 of this Act shall not become effective and this Act shall
 13 be automatically repealed on the first day of January immediately following that election
 14 date. The expense of such election shall be borne by the City of Buford. It shall be the
 15 municipal election superintendent's duty to certify the result thereof to the Secretary of State.

16 **SECTION 3.**

17 Except as otherwise provided in Section 2 of this Act, this Act shall become effective upon
 18 its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

19 **SECTION 4.**

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