

House Bill 703 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Mitchell of the 88th, Henson of the 87th, Millar of the 79th, Mangham of the 94th, Chambers of the 81st, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act to provide a \$14,000.00 homestead exemption from certain ad valorem
2 taxes levied by, for, or on behalf of the City of Stone Mountain for residents who are 62
3 years of age or older and whose net income together with the net income of the spouse who
4 resides at the homestead of such resident does not exceed \$10,000.00, approved April 9,
5 1999 (Ga. L. 1999, p. 3702), so as to increase the amount of such exemption to \$20,000.00
6 of the assessed value of the homestead; to provide for a referendum, effective dates, and
7 automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 An Act to provide a \$14,000.00 homestead exemption from certain ad valorem taxes levied
11 by, for, or on behalf of the City of Stone Mountain for residents who are 62 years of age or
12 older and whose net income together with the net income of the spouse who resides at the
13 homestead of such resident does not exceed \$10,000.00, approved April 9, 1999 (Ga. L.
14 1999, p. 3702), is amended by striking in its entirety subsection (b) of Section 1 and inserting
15 in lieu thereof the following:

16 "(b) Each resident of the City of Stone Mountain who is a senior citizen is granted an
17 exemption on that person's homestead from all City of Stone Mountain ad valorem taxes
18 for city purposes in the amount of \$20,000.00 of the assessed value of that homestead
19 owned and occupied by such resident as a residence if the resident's net income, as defined
20 by Georgia law, as now or hereafter amended, together with the net income of the
21 resident's spouse who also resides at and occupies such homestead does not exceed
22 \$10,000.00 for the immediately preceding taxable year. The value of that property in
23 excess of such exempted amount shall remain subject to taxation."

SECTION 2.

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2 Unless prohibited by the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, the municipal
3 election superintendent of the City of Stone Mountain shall call and conduct an election as
4 provided in this section for the purpose of submitting this Act to the electors of the City of
5 Stone Mountain for approval or rejection. The municipal election superintendent shall
6 conduct that election on the date of the 2005 city-wide general election, and shall issue the
7 call and conduct that election as provided by general law. The superintendent shall cause the
8 date and purpose of the election to be published once a week for two weeks immediately
9 preceding the date thereof in the official organ of the City of Stone Mountain. The ballot
10 shall have written or printed thereon the words:

11 " () YES Shall the Act be approved which increases the homestead exemption from
12 certain ad valorem taxes levied for the City of Stone Mountain for city
13 () NO purposes from \$14,000.00 to \$20,000.00 for residents of that district who
14 are 62 years of age or older and whose net income does not exceed
15 \$10,000.00?"

16 All persons desiring to vote for approval of the Act shall vote "Yes," and those persons
17 desiring to vote for rejection of the Act shall vote "No." If more than one-half of the votes
18 cast on such question are for approval of the Act, Section 1 shall become of full force and
19 effect on January 1, 2006. If the Act is not so approved or if the election is not conducted as
20 provided in this section, the remaining sections of this Act shall not become effective and this
21 Act shall be automatically repealed on the first day of January immediately following that
22 election date. The expense of such election shall be borne by the City of Stone Mountain. It
23 shall be the election superintendent's duty to certify the result thereof to the Secretary of
24 State.

SECTION 3.

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

SECTION 4.

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