

House Bill 1638

By: Representative Bridges of the 10<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To authorize the State Court of Habersham County to charge a technology fee for each civil  
2 case filed and criminal fine imposed; to specify the uses to which said technology fees may  
3 be put; to provide for review and reports; to provide for adjustment of such fee; to provide  
4 an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 (a) The clerk of the State Court of Habersham County shall be entitled to charge and collect  
8 a technology fee to be set by the court in the amount of \$8.00 for the filing of each civil  
9 action and \$8.00 as a surcharge to each fine paid. Technology fees shall be used exclusively  
10 to provide for the technological needs of the state court. Such uses shall include only the  
11 following:

12 (1) Computer hardware and software purchases;

13 (2) Lease, maintenance, and installation of computer hardware; and

14 (3) Purchase, lease, maintenance, and installation of imaging, scanning, facsimile,  
15 communications, projection, and printing equipment and software.

16 (b) The funds collected pursuant to this section shall be maintained in a segregated fund by  
17 the clerk of the state court and shall be used only for the purposes authorized in this section  
18 at the direction of the judge of the state court.

19 (c) The clerk shall collaborate with the finance director of Habersham County to ensure the  
20 effective implementation of this Act.

21 (d) At the end of each calendar year, the finance director shall provide a detailed report of  
22 all income and expenditures of the fund to the judge of the state court and to the governing  
23 authority of Habersham County.

24 (e) Beginning July 1, 2007, and every two years thereafter, the finance director shall review  
25 the fund history and any excess sums not expended or earmarked for the purposes specified  
26 in this Act shall be paid into the general fund of the county.

1 (f) On July 1, 2007, the finance director and the judge of the state court shall review the fund  
2 history and the judge shall be authorized, with the advice and consent of the governing  
3 authority of Habersham County, to set the technology fee at an even dollar figure less than  
4 \$8.00 by an order filed with the clerk of the state court.

5 **SECTION 2.**

6 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2006.

7 **SECTION 3.**

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