

House Bill 1639

By: Representative Bridges of the 10th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To authorize the Probate Court of Habersham County to charge a technology fee for each
2 civil case filed and criminal fine imposed; to specify the uses to which said technology fees
3 may be put; to provide for review and reports; to provide for adjustment of such fee; to
4 provide 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 Probate Court of Habersham County shall be entitled to charge and
8 collect a technology fee to be set by the court in the amount of \$8.00 for the filing of each
9 civil action and \$8.00 as a surcharge to each fine paid. Technology fees shall be used
10 exclusively to provide for the technological needs of the probate court. Such uses shall
11 include only the 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 probate court and shall be used only for the purposes authorized in this
18 section at the direction of the judge of the probate 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 probate 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 probate court shall review the
2 fund 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 probate 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.