

Senate Bill 543

By: Senator Grant of the 25th

AS PASSED

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT**

1 To amend an Act entitled "An Act to provide for a homestead exemption from Baldwin
2 County ad valorem taxes for county purposes", approved April 15, 2005 (Ga. L. 2005, p.
3 3564), so as to reduce the age for qualifying for such homestead exemption from 65 to 60
4 years; to provide for applicability; to provide for a referendum, effective dates, and automatic
5 repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 An Act entitled "An Act to provide for a homestead exemption from Baldwin County ad
9 valorem taxes for county purposes", approved April 15, 2005 (Ga. L. 2005, p. 3564), is
10 amended by revising paragraph (4) of subsection (a) as follows:

11 "(4) 'Senior citizen' means a person who is 60 years of age or over on or before January
12 1 of the year in which application for the exemption under this Act is made."

13 **SECTION 2.**

14 Unless prohibited by the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, the election
15 superintendent of Baldwin County shall call and conduct an election as provided in this
16 section for the purpose of submitting this Act to the electors of Baldwin County for approval
17 or rejection. The election superintendent shall conduct that election on day of the state-wide
18 general election in November, 2010, and shall issue the call and conduct that election as
19 provided by general law. The superintendent shall cause the date and purpose of the election
20 to be published once a week for two weeks immediately preceding the date thereof in the
21 official organ of Baldwin County. The ballot shall have written or printed thereon the words:

22 "() YES Shall the Act be approved which changes the age for qualifying for a
23 homestead exemption from Baldwin County ad valorem taxes for county
24 () NO purposes for senior citizens from 65 to 60 years of age?"

25 All persons desiring to vote for approval of the Act shall vote "Yes," and all persons desiring
26 to vote for rejection of the Act shall vote "No." If more than one-half of the votes cast on
27 such question are for approval of the Act, Section 1 of this Act shall become of full force and
28 effect on January 1, 2011. If the Act is not so approved or if the election is not conducted
29 as provided in this section, Section 1 of this Act shall not become effective and this Act shall
30 be automatically repealed on the first day of January immediately following that election
31 date. The expense of such election shall be borne by Baldwin County. It shall be the
32 election superintendent's duty to certify the result thereof to the Secretary of State.

33 **SECTION 3.**

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

36 **SECTION 4.**

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