The House Committee on Retirement offers the following substitute to HB 969:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

1 To amend Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to retirement and 2 pensions, so as to amend certain provisions to comply with federal law; to provide for 3 benefits for members of public retirement systems in qualified military service; to provide 4 for required minimum distributions; to define certain terms relative to conformity with 5 federal law; to define certain terms relative to the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia; to provide for employee contributions; to provide for application for certain creditable 6 7 service; to clarify provisions relative to post-retirement employment; to amend certain 8 provisions relative to disability retirement; to amend certain provisions relative to retirement 9 under the Public School Employees Retirement System; to provide an effective date; to 10 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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SECTION 1.

Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to retirement and pensions, is amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 47-1-62, relating to procedure for establishment of creditable service, computations, employer contributions, and system or fund unable to provide creditable service, as follows:

17 "(b)(1) At the time a qualified returning veteran applies for creditable service as provided
18 in Code Section 47-1-61, the board of trustees of the public retirement system or fund
19 shall compute the actuarial value of the creditable service to be granted.

(2) The board of trustees of a retirement system or fund which requires employer
contributions shall notify the employer of the returning veteran of the actuarial value, less
the amount of employee contribution. The employer shall pay such amount to the
retirement system over the same period of time allowed for the returning veteran to pay
the employee contributions; provided, however, that an employer shall not be required
to make any payment until the fiscal year following the year such notice is given.

(3) If the actuary employed by a retirement system or fund created by this title which
does not require an employer contribution certifies that the system or fund cannot provide
the creditable service requested by one or more returning veterans and retain its actuarial
soundness, no discretionary benefit increases shall be granted, and the board of trustees
of such system or fund shall notify the Governor and chairpersons of the Senate and
House Committees on Retirement, providing a full explanation of the amount of funds
necessary to return the system or fund to actuarial soundness.

- 33 (4) If a member of a public retirement system dies while performing qualified military
- 34 <u>service, as such term is defined in Section 414(U) of the federal Internal Revenue Code</u>,
- 35 the member's beneficiary shall be entitled to all additional benefits to which the
- 36 <u>beneficiary would have been entitled if the member had resumed employment with the</u>
- 37 employer, reentered the plan, and died immediately thereafter. Unless otherwise required
- 38 by Code Section 38-2-279, additional benefits to beneficiaries shall not include benefit
- 39 <u>accruals for the period of qualified military service.</u>
- 40 (5) If an employer pays differential wage payments, as such term is defined in Section
- 41 <u>3401(h) of the federal Internal Revenue Code, to a member of a public retirement system</u>
- 42 while such member is in qualified military service, such payments shall be taken into
- 43 <u>account as compensation by the public retirement system or fund.</u>"
- 44

SECTION 2.

45 Said title is further amended by adding two new subsections to Code Section 47-1-80.1,46 relating to provisions applicable to all public retirement or pension systems, maximum

- 47 annuity paid, and limitation on death and disability benefits, to read as follows:
- 48 "(d) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (e) of this Code section, a member or 49 beneficiary who would have been required to receive required minimum distributions for 50 2009 but for the enactment of Section 401(a)(9)(H) of the federal Internal Revenue Code 51 shall not receive those distributions for 2009 unless the member or beneficiary chooses to receive such distributions. Such members and beneficiaries shall be given the opportunity 52 to elect to receive such distributions. In addition, notwithstanding the provisions of Code 53 54 Section 47-1-81, and solely for purposes of applying the direct rollover provisions of the federal Internal Revenue Code, 2009 required minimum distributions shall be treated as 55 eligible rollover distributions. This subsection shall also apply to required minimum 56 57 distributions after 2009 if federal law is extended to include such later years.
- 58 (e) A public retirement or pension system to which subsection (d) of this Code section
- 59 applies may choose a default option to pay 2009 required minimum distributions unless
- 60 otherwise elected by the member, provided that the individual system adopt such a default
- 61 <u>rule for its members only in its plan documents.</u>"

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SECTION 3.

63 Said title is further amended by revising subsections (a) and (b) of Code Section 47-1-82,

relating to maximum benefit limited to that allowed by federal law, nonannuity benefit,reduction, and adjustments, as follows:

66 "(a) As used in this Code section, the term:

67 (1) 'Annual benefit' means a retirement benefit under the public retirement or pension
68 system which is payable annually in the form of a straight life annuity.

(2) 'Applicable mortality table' means the table prescribed by the federal Internal 69 70 <u>Revenue Code or the</u> secretary of the treasury of the United States in Revenue Ruling 71 95-6 or any successor thereto which prescribes the mortality table to be applied pursuant 72 to Section 415(b)(2)(E)(v) of the federal Internal Revenue Code; provided, however, that 73 the board of trustees of a public retirement system may adopt a different definition of such term in the retirement system plan document. To the extent that a forfeiture does 74 75 not occur upon death, the mortality decrement may be ignored prior to age 62 and shall 76 be ignored after social security retirement age, as prescribed by federal Internal Revenue 77 Service Notice 83-10, Q&A G-3 and G-4, or any successor thereto.

- (3) 'Compensation' means, for purposes of applying the limitations of Section 415 of the
 federal Internal Revenue Code and for no other purpose, a plan member's wages as
 defined in Section 3401(a) of the federal Internal Revenue Code (wages subject to
 income tax withholding at the source, but without regard to exceptions contained in
 Section 3401(a) of the federal Internal Revenue Code for wages based on the nature or
 location of the employment or the services performed). The term shall also include the
 following:
- (A) For limitation years beginning on or after December 31, 1997, for purposes of
 applying the limitations of Section 415 of the federal Internal Revenue Code, amounts
 that would otherwise be included in compensation but for an election under Sections
 125(a), 402(e)(3), 402(h)(1)(B), 402(k), and 457(b) of the federal Internal Revenue
 Code;

(B) For limitation years beginning after December 31, 2000, any elective amounts that
 are not includable in the plan member's gross income by reason of Section 132(f) of the
 federal Internal Revenue Code, relating to qualified transportation plan; and

93 (C) For limitation years beginning on and after January 1, 2007, compensation paid by
94 the later of 2 1/2 months after the plan member's severance from employment or the end
95 of the limitation year that includes the date of the plan member's severance from
96 employment if:

97 (i) The payment is regular compensation for services during the plan member's
 98 regular working hours or compensation for services outside the plan member's regular

working hours, including without limitation overtime or shift differential,
commissions, bonuses, or other similar payments, and, absent a severance from
employment, the payment would have been paid to the plan member while he or she
continued in employment with the employer; or

103 (ii) The payment is for unused accrued bona fide sick leave, vacation leave, or the104 leave that the member would have been able to use if employment had continued.

'Compensation' also includes back pay, within the meaning of Treasury Regulation
Section 1.415 (c)-2(g)(8), for the limitation year to which the back pay relates to the
extent the back pay represents wages and compensation that would otherwise be included
in this definition.

(4) 'Dollar limitation' means the maximum permissible amount as such term is definedin paragraph (6) of this subsection.

(5) 'Limitation year' means the plan calendar year; provided, however, that the board of
 trustees of a public retirement system may adopt a different definition of such term in the
 retirement system plan document.

114 (6) 'Maximum permissible amount' means:

- (A) For limitation years beginning prior to January 1, 1995, 100 percent of the plan
 member's average compensation for the period of three consecutive years during which
 the plan member has the highest aggregate compensation from the employer;
- (B) For limitation years beginning on and after January 1, 1995, but before January 1,
 2001, \$90,000; and
- (C) For limitation years beginning on and after January 1, 2002, \$160,000.00, as
 adjusted by the secretary of the treasury of the United States for each calendar year,
 with the new limitation to apply to limitation years ending within the calendar year of
 the date of the adjustment.
- (7) 'Nonannuity benefit form' means a benefit, whether a normal form or an optionalform, which is not payable in a straight life annuity for the life of the plan member.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this title to the contrary, the <u>maximum annual</u>
 <u>additions and the maximum benefit payable to any active or retired member or beneficiary</u>
 of a retirement or pension system subject to this title shall be limited to such extent as may

be necessary to conform to the requirements of <u>subsections (b) and (c) of</u> Section 415 of

130 the federal Internal Revenue Code for a qualified retirement plan.

(c) If a plan member's benefit is payable in a nonannuity benefit form, whether as the
normal form of benefit or as an optional form which the plan member or his or her
designated beneficiary elects, the nonannuity benefit form shall be adjusted to an annual
benefit as described in subsections (d) and (e) of this Code section. No actuarial
adjustment to the nonannuity benefit form shall be required for:

136 (1) The value of a qualified joint and survivor annuity; or (2) The value of benefits that are not directly related to retirement benefits, such as a 137 disability benefit, preretirement death benefits, and postretirement medical benefits; or 138 139 (3) The value of postretirement cost-of-living increases provided that the amount payable 140 to the plan member under the nonannuity benefit form in any limitation year shall not be 141 greater than the Section 415(b) of the federal Internal Revenue Code limit applicable at 142 the annuity starting date as increased in subsequent years pursuant to Section 415(d) of 143 the federal Internal Revenue Code and Section 1.415(d)-1 of the Treasury Regulations. 144 The determination of the annual benefit shall disregard benefits attributable to employee 145 contributions or rollover contributions or the assets transferred from a qualified plan that 146 was not maintained by an employer."

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SECTION 4.

Said title is further amended by revising paragraphs (11) and (28) of Code Section 47-3-1,
relating to definitions relative to the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia, as follows:

''(11) 'Earnable compensation' means the full rate of regular compensation payable to a 150 member for his full normal working time and includes compensation paid to a member 151 152 by an employer from grants or contracts made by outside agencies with the employer. 153 All moneys paid by an employer for a member or by a member into any plan of tax sheltered annuity shall be included as earnable compensation for the purpose of 154 155 computing any contributions required to be made to the retirement system and also for 156 the purpose of computing any benefits or allowances payable under this chapter. Such 157 term shall include contributions made to a qualified transportation plan, within the meaning of Section 132(f) of the federal Internal Revenue Code, and before tax or salary 158 159 deferral contributions made under Sections 125, 401(k), 402(g)(3), 457, or 414(h) of the federal Internal Revenue Code to this retirement system or to any other retirement plan 160

161 <u>maintained by an employer.</u>"

162 "(28) 'Teacher' means:

- 163 (A) Any of the following persons employed not less than half time by a public school:
- 164 (i) Persons who supervise the public schools;
- 165 (ii) Classroom teachers; and
- 166 (iii) Persons employed in a clerical capacity;
- (B) Public school nurses who are employed on a regular basis as much as one-half time
 or more. The employer's contributions for such public school nurses on all salary
 amounts which are not paid from state funds shall be paid from local funds;
- 170 (C) School librarians;
- 171 (D) Administrative officials who supervise teachers;

(E) Full-time public school lunchroom managers or supervisors, full-time public school
maintenance managers or supervisors, full-time public school transportation managers
or supervisors, and full-time public school warehouse managers or supervisors, upon
electing to participate in the retirement system pursuant to Code Section 47-3-63;

(F) Any new certified professional personnel employed for the first time by the State
Board of Education or by the State Department of Education on and after July 1, 1983,
unless such personnel elect membership in the Employees' Retirement System of
Georgia pursuant to subsection (h) of Code Section 47-3-60, and any employee of the
State Board of Education or the State Board of Vocational Education employed in a
teaching, supervisory, or clerical capacity;

(F.1) Certified professional personnel who are in the unclassified service of the State
Personnel Administration and who are employed by the State Board of Education or by
the State Department of Education and who become members of this retirement system
pursuant to the authority of subsection (i) of Code Section 47-3-60;

(F.2) Newly hired professional personnel employed for the first time by the Technical
College System of Georgia on and after July 1, 1985, and all full-time nonprofessional
personnel employed for the first time after July 1, 1987, by postsecondary
vocational-technical schools governed by the Technical College System of Georgia if
otherwise eligible under laws, rules, and regulations, unless such personnel elect
membership in the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia pursuant to subsection
(j) of Code Section 47-3-60;

(F.3) All full-time employees of a postsecondary vocational-technical school formerly
operated by a local board of education or area postsecondary vocational education
board as of July 1, 1987, or the date on which the Technical College System of Georgia
assumes governance of the postsecondary vocational-technical school if otherwise
eligible under laws, rules, and regulations, unless such personnel elect membership in
the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia pursuant to subsection (j) of Code
Section 47-3-60;

(F.4) Personnel employed by the State Board of Education or by the State Department
 of Education who are authorized to elect and elect to become or remain members of the
 retirement system pursuant to the applicable provisions of Code Section 47-3-60;

203 (G) Any bona fide teacher, supervisor of teachers, or clerical employee in any school
204 operated by the Department of Education;

(H) Teacher aides and paraprofessional personnel and members of the staff of any
regional educational service agency created pursuant to Code Sections 20-2-270
through 20-2-274;

208 (I) Registrars of each unit of the University System of Georgia;

(J) The secretary and treasurer of the Board of Regents of the University System ofGeorgia;

(K) Teachers, supervisors of teachers, and clerical workers who are employed and paid
by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia;

(L) All personnel of the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Georgia;
(M) Any other person employed not less than on a half-time basis and paid by the
Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, with the exception of such
maintenance and custodial employees employed prior to July 1, 1978, who elected to
forgo membership, provided that the board of trustees shall determine whether any
particular employee is a maintenance or custodial employee;

(N) Any full-time employee of the Georgia Association of Educators, Georgia High
School Association, or Georgia School Boards Association, provided that such
association, as appropriate, and the employee request that the board of trustees permit
them to pay the employer and employee contributions, respectively. The state shall
make no contributions on account of such employee;

(O) Librarians and clerical personnel employed by regional and county libraries. Any 224 of such librarians and clerical personnel who were members of a local retirement 225 226 system on January 1, 1977, and who elected to remain members of such local 227 retirement system shall not be required to become members of this retirement system, 228 or if they were members of this retirement system on that date, they may withdraw from 229 such membership. This election must have been made, in writing, to the board of 230 trustees by not later than January 1, 1978. Any of such librarians and clerical personnel 231 failing to so notify the board of trustees by that date shall be members of this retirement system. The employer contributions for such librarians and clerical personnel who are 232 233 or who become members of this retirement system shall be paid from local funds on all 234 salary amounts of such librarians and clerical personnel which are not paid from state funds. Prior service of such librarians and other service for which such librarians have 235 contributed to the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia is ratified, subject to the 236 237 same laws and the same rules and regulations applicable to other members of this 238 retirement system;

(P) The full-time executive secretary of the Georgia Vocational Association. Such
association shall pay the required employer contribution for membership service. The
executive secretary shall be entitled to receive credit for prior teaching service by
paying the employee and employer contributions that would have been paid, plus
interest at the rate of 8 percent per annum; and

(Q) Attendance officers employed not less than half time for service rendered after
June 30, 1992. As used in this subparagraph, 'attendance officer' means an attendance

LC 21 0588S

officer employed in lieu of a visiting teacher under Subpart 2 of Part 1 of Article 16 of
Chapter 2 of Title 20; provided, however, that the provisions of this subparagraph shall
not apply to any former member employed as an attendance officer who retired prior
to July 1, 1992.

The term 'teacher' shall not be deemed to include any emergency or temporary employee. 250 251 The term 'teacher' shall not include an individual classified by an employer as an 252 independent contractor or a leased employee within the meaning of Section 414(n) of the federal Internal Revenue Code, even if such individual is later reclassified by the Internal 253 254 Revenue Service as a common law employee. The board of trustees shall determine in doubtful cases whether any person is included within the definition set forth in this 255 paragraph. Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraphs (N) and (P) of this 256 paragraph (28) of this Code section, no person becoming an employee of the Georgia 257 Association of Educators, the Georgia High School Association, or the Georgia School 258 Boards Association or becoming the executive secretary of the Georgia Vocational 259 260 Association after June 30, 1984, shall be a 'teacher' within the meaning of <u>this</u> paragraph (28) of this Code section or shall be eligible for membership in the retirement system 261 provided for by this chapter unless the person holding any such position is also a 'teacher' 262 263 within the meaning of a subparagraph of <u>this</u> paragraph (28) of this Code section other than subparagraph (N) or (P) of this paragraph. Except as otherwise provided by Code 264 Section 47-3-84.2, subparagraphs (N) and (P) of this paragraph (28) of this Code section 265 266 shall remain effective after June 30, 1984, only for the purpose of allowing any person 267 who was a member of the retirement system on June 30, 1984, because the person held 268 a position specified by said subparagraph (N) or (P) of this paragraph to continue such membership as long as the person continues to hold such position." 269

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SECTION 5.

271 Said title is further amended by adding a new paragraph to Code Section 47-3-1, relating to

272 definitions relative to the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia, to read as follows:

273 "(19.1) 'Plan year' means the 12 month period beginning on July 1 of each year."

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SECTION 6.

Said title is further amended by revising subsection (e) of Code Section 47-3-41.1, relating
to payment of employee contributions by employers, as follows:

- 277 "(e) <u>The employee contributions provided for in this Code section are mandatory, and no</u>
- 278 <u>member is entitled under any circumstances to receive such contributions in cash in lieu</u>
- 279 of having them contributed to the retirement system. Such contributions shall be 100
- 280 percent vested for all purposes under the retirement system. Reserved."

	10 LC 21 0588S
281	SECTION 7.
282	Said title is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 47-3-93, relating to
283	additional creditable service for members with at least 25 years of creditable service, as
284	follows:
285	"(a) Any member of this retirement system who has accrued at least 25 years of creditable
286	service may obtain up to an additional three years of creditable service as provided in this
287	Code section. In order to obtain such additional creditable service, the member must:
288	(1) Make application to the board of trustees in such manner as the board deems
289	appropriate; and
290	(2) Pay to the board of trustees an amount determined by the board of trustees to be
291	sufficient to cover the full actuarial cost of granting the creditable service as provided in
292	this Code section.
293	Such application and payment must be made in conjunction with and simultaneously with
• • •	

- 294 the member's application for retirement. If the application for retirement is withdrawn or
- 295 <u>denied, the application to purchase creditable service shall be void.</u>"

296	SECTION 8.
297	Said title is further amended by revising subsections (a) and (b) of Code Section 47-3-101,
298	relating to eligibility and application for retirement, duration of benefits paid to a retired
299	member, and payment to maintain Teachers Retirement System of Georgia, as follows:
300	"(a) Any member in service may retire upon written application to the board of trustees,
301	provided that the member at the time of retirement: (1) has attained the age of 60 years and
302	has at least ten years of creditable service, or (2) has at least 25 years of creditable service.
303	The effective date of retirement will be the first of the month in which the application is
304	received by the board of trustees; except that no retirement application will be effective
305	earlier than the first of the month following the final month of the applicant's employment.
306	Applications for retirement will not be accepted more than 180 days in advance of the
307	effective date of retirement. Each employer shall certify to the board of trustees the date
308	on which the employee's employment is or will be severed and that no agreement exists to
309	allow the employee to return to service, including service as or for an independent
310	contractor. Any return to employment or rendering of any paid service, including service
311	as or for an independent contractor, for any employer during the calendar month of the
312	effective date of retirement shall render the severance invalid and nullify the application
313	for retirement.
314	(b) For purposes of this chapter, normal retirement age shall be 60 years of age if the
315	member has at least ten years of creditable service or the age of the member on the date he

316 or she attains 30 years of creditable service, whichever event comes first; provided,

LC 21 0588S

- 317 however, that the provisions of this subsection shall be subject to change by future
- 318 legislation in order to comply with federal regulations. Except as provided under Article
- 319 <u>3 of Chapter 1 of this chapter, a member's right to his or her retirement allowance is</u>
- 320 <u>nonforfeitable upon attainment of normal retirement age.</u> Reserved."

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SECTION 9.

- 322 Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (2) of subsection (c) of Code Section
- 323 47-3-122, relating to eligibility and application for disability benefits, amount of disability
- 324 benefits, reexamination of recipients, and reduction, as follows:
- 325 "(2) An annual pension computed under the formula set forth in subsection (a) of Code
 326 Section 47-3-120, but with no reduction in benefits set forth in subsection (b) of Code
 327 Section 47-3-120 for retirement under the age of 62 60."
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SECTION 10.

Said title is further amended by revising subsection (e) of Code Section 47-3-122, relating
to eligibility and application for disability benefits, amount of disability benefits,
reexamination of recipients, and reduction, as follows:

332 "(e) Once each year during the first five years following retirement of a member on a 333 disability retirement allowance and once in every three-year period thereafter, the board 334 of trustees may require a disability beneficiary who has not yet attained age $\frac{62}{60}$ to 335 undergo a medical examination, such examination to be made at his place of residence or 336 other place mutually agreed upon, by a physician or physicians designated by the medical 337 board. Such beneficiary may himself request such an examination. If any disability beneficiary who has not yet attained age 62 60 refuses to submit to such medical 338 339 examination, his pension may be discontinued by the board of trustees until his withdrawal 340 of such refusal; and if his refusal continues for one year, all his rights in and to his pension may be revoked by the board of trustees." 341

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SECTION 11.

Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 47-4-106, relating to return to public
service of retired members of the Public School Employees Retirement System, as follows: *"*47-4-106.

346 (a) If any retired member who has not yet reached normal retirement age returns to service
347 as a public school employee in any position which normally requires membership in this
348 retirement system, such member's retirement benefit shall cease and the retired member
349 shall reestablish active membership in this retirement system. The member shall have the
350 same creditable service which the member possessed at the time of retirement and shall

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351 accumulate additional creditable service so long as such active membership continues. 352 Upon cessation of such service, or upon attainment of normal retirement age and cessation 353 of contributions, the retired member, after proper notification to the board, shall receive a 354 retirement benefit based on the member's total accrued service reduced by any amount 355 already received prior to reemployment.

- 356 (b) If any retired member who has reached normal retirement age returns to service as a
- 357 public school employee in any position that would normally require membership in this retirement system, such member shall have the option to: 358
- 359 (1) Contribute to the system, in which event the member's retirement benefit shall cease
- and the retired member shall reestablish active membership in this retirement system. The member shall have the same creditable service which the member possessed at the 361
- 362 time of retirement and shall accumulate additional creditable service so long as such
- active membership continues. Upon cessation of such service, the retired member, after 363
- proper notification to the board, shall receive a retirement benefit based on the member's 364 365 total accrued service reduced by any amounts already received; or
- (2) Not contribute to the system, in which event the member's retirement benefit shall 366 367 not cease, and no additional benefits will accrue.
- 368 (c) Any employer which employs a retired member shall within 30 days of the employee's 369 accepting employment notify the board of trustees in writing stating the name of the 370 member and, if the retired member is age 65 or older, shall provide in writing from the 371 retired member his or her election either to discontinue benefits and resume contributions, 372 or to continue receiving retirement benefits and accrue no additional credits under the 373 retirement system. Any employer which fails to notify the board of trustees as required by
- 374 this subsection shall reimburse the retirement system for any benefits wrongfully paid. It
- shall be the duty of the retired member seeking employment by the employer to notify the 375
- 376 employer of his or her retirement status prior to accepting such position. If a retired
- 377 member fails to so notify the employer and the employer becomes liable to the retirement
- 378 system, the member shall hold the employer harmless for all such liability."
- 379

SECTION 12.

- 380 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law 381 without such approval.
- 382

SECTION 13.

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