

House Bill 541

By: Representatives Jones of the 47<sup>th</sup>, Lindsey of the 54<sup>th</sup>, Geisinger of the 48<sup>th</sup>, Riley of the 50<sup>th</sup>, Wilkinson of the 52<sup>nd</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act providing a homestead exemption from Fulton County ad valorem taxes  
2 for county purposes in the amount of \$15,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for  
3 residents of that county, approved April 20, 1992 (Ga. L. 1992, p. 6583), as amended,  
4 particularly by an Act approved May 13, 2008 (Ga. L. 2008, p. 4010), so as to increase the  
5 exemption amount to \$60,000.00 after a three-year phase-in period; to provide for  
6 applicability; to provide for a referendum, effective dates, and automatic repeal; to repeal  
7 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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**SECTION 1.**

11 An Act providing a homestead exemption from Fulton County ad valorem taxes for county  
12 purposes in the amount of \$15,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents  
13 of that county, approved April 20, 1992 (Ga. L. 1992, p. 6583), as amended, particularly by  
14 an Act approved May 13, 2008 (Ga. L. 2008, p. 4010), is amended by revising Section 2 as  
15 follows:

16

"SECTION 2.

17 Each resident of Fulton County is granted an exemption on that person's homestead from  
18 all Fulton County ad valorem taxes for county purposes as follows:

19 (1) For the taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2015, and prior to  
20 January 1, 2016, in the amount of \$40,000.00 of the assessed value of that homestead;

21 (2) For the taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2016, and prior to  
22 January 1, 2017, in the amount of \$50,000.00 of the assessed value of that homestead;

23 and

24 (3) For all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2017, in the amount  
25 of \$60,000.00 of the assessed value of that homestead.

26 (b) The value of that property in excess of such exempted amount under subsection (a) of  
 27 this section shall remain subject to taxation."

28 **SECTION 3.**

29 Unless prohibited by the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, the election  
 30 superintendent of Fulton County shall call and conduct an election as provided in this section  
 31 for the purpose of submitting this Act to the electors of Fulton County for approval or  
 32 rejection. The election superintendent shall conduct such election on the Tuesday next  
 33 following the first Monday in November, 2014, and shall issue the call and conduct that  
 34 election as provided by general law. The election superintendent shall cause the date and  
 35 purpose of the election to be published once a week for two weeks immediately preceding  
 36 the date thereof in the official organ of Fulton County. The ballot shall have written or  
 37 printed thereon the words:

38 "( ) YES Shall the Act be approved which lowers property taxes for Fulton County  
 39 homeowners by increasing the homestead exemption from Fulton County  
 40 ( ) NO ad valorem taxes for county purposes from \$30,000.00 to \$60,000.00 after  
 41 a three-year phase-in period?"

42 All persons desiring to vote for approval of the Act shall vote "Yes," and all persons desiring  
 43 to vote for rejection of the Act shall vote "No." If more than one-half of the votes cast on  
 44 such question are for approval of the Act, Section 2 of this Act shall become of full force and  
 45 effect on January 1, 2015, and shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning on or after  
 46 January 1, 2015. If the Act is not so approved or if the election is not conducted as provided  
 47 in this section, Section 2 of this Act shall not become effective, and Section 2 of this Act  
 48 shall be automatically repealed on the first day of January immediately following that  
 49 election date. The expense of such election shall be borne by Fulton County. It shall be the  
 50 election superintendent's duty to certify the result thereof to the Secretary of State.

51 **SECTION 4.**

52 Except as otherwise provided in Section 3 of this Act, this Act shall become effective upon  
 53 its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

54 **SECTION 5.**

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