

House Bill 521

By: Representatives Raffensperger of the 50th, Jones of the 47th, Willard of the 51st, Geisinger of the 48th, Martin of the 49th, 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 two-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:**

9 **SECTION 1.**

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

15 "SECTION 2.

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

18 (1) For the taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2017, and prior to
19 January 1, 2018, in the amount of \$45,000.00 of the assessed value of that homestead;
20 and

21 (2) For all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2018, in the amount of
22 \$60,000.00 of the assessed value of that homestead.

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

25 **SECTION 2.**

26 The election superintendent of Fulton County shall call and conduct an election as provided
 27 in this section for the purpose of submitting this Act to the electors of Fulton County for
 28 approval or rejection. The election superintendent shall conduct such election in conjunction
 29 with the presidential preference primary in 2016, and shall issue the call and conduct that
 30 election as provided by general law. The election superintendent shall cause the date and
 31 purpose of the election to be published once a week for two weeks immediately preceding
 32 the date thereof in the official organ of Fulton County. The ballot shall have written or
 33 printed thereon the words:

34 " YES Shall the Act be approved which lowers property taxes for Fulton County
 35 homeowners by increasing the homestead exemption from Fulton County
 36 NO ad valorem taxes for county purposes from \$30,000.00 to \$60,000.00 after
 37 a two-year phase-in period?"

38 All persons desiring to vote for approval of the Act shall vote "Yes," and all persons desiring
 39 to vote for rejection of the Act shall vote "No." If more than one-half of the votes cast on
 40 such question are for approval of the Act, Section 1 of this Act shall become of full force and
 41 effect on January 1, 2017, and shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning on or after
 42 January 1, 2017. If the Act is not so approved or if the election is not conducted as provided
 43 in this section, Section 1 of this Act shall not become effective, and Section 1 of this Act
 44 shall be automatically repealed on the first day of January immediately following that
 45 election date. The expense of such election shall be borne by Fulton County. It shall be the
 46 election superintendent's duty to certify the result thereof to the Secretary of State.

47 **SECTION 3.**

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

50 **SECTION 4.**

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