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House Bill 671

By: Representatives Mayo of the 84th, Oliver of the 82nd, Drenner of the 85th, Mosby of the 83rd, Mitchell of the 88th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

- 1 To repeal a former local constitutional amendment, Ga. L. 1981, p. 1914, which former local
- 2 constitutional amendment was continued in effect as statutory law pursuant to Article VII,
- 3 Section II, Paragraph IV of the Constitution of Georgia and which provides for a homestead
- 4 exemption from certain city ad valorem taxes for residents of the City of Decatur in an
- 5 amount to be fixed by the governing authority of the city at not more than \$2,000.00 for the
- 6 first year, and which may be increased periodically, but which exemption shall not exceed
- 7 \$10,000.00; to provide for a referendum, effective dates, and automatic repeal; to repeal
- 8 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

11 The former local constitutional amendment, Ga. L. 1981, p. 1914, which former local

- 12 constitutional amendment was continued in effect as statutory law pursuant to Article VII,
- 13 Section II, Paragraph IV of the Constitution of Georgia and which provides for a homestead
- 14 exemption from certain city ad valorem taxes for residents of the City of Decatur in an
- amount to be fixed by the governing authority of the city at not more than \$2,000.00 for the
- 16 first year, and which may be increased periodically, but which exemption shall not exceed
- 17 \$10,000.00, is hereby repealed.

SECTION 2.

- 19 The municipal election superintendent of the City of Decatur shall call and conduct an
- 20 election as provided in this section for the purpose of submitting this Act to the electors of
- 21 the City of Decatur for approval or rejection. The municipal election superintendent shall
- 22 conduct that election on the date of the November, 2015, municipal election and shall issue
- 23 the call and conduct that election as provided by general law. The municipal election
- superintendent shall cause the date and purpose of the election to be published once a week

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25 for two weeks immediately preceding the date thereof in the official organ of DeKalb

- 26 County. The ballot shall have written or printed thereon the words:
- 27 "() YES Shall the Act be approved which repeals an obsolete homestead exemption
- 28 () NO for residents of the City of Decatur?"
- 29 All persons desiring to vote for approval of the Act shall vote "Yes," and those persons
- desiring to vote for rejection of the Act shall vote "No." If more than one-half of the votes
- 31 cast on such question are for approval of the Act, Section 1 of this Act shall become of full
- 32 force and effect on January 1, 2016. If the Act is not so approved or if the election is not
- 33 conducted as provided in this section, Section 1 of this Act shall not become effective and
- 34 this Act shall be automatically repealed on the first day of January immediately following
- 35 that election date. The expense of such election shall be borne by the City of Decatur. It
- 36 shall be the municipal election superintendent's duty to certify the result thereof to the
- 37 Secretary of State.

38 SECTION 3.

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

41 SECTION 4.

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