

House Bill 947

By: Representative Corbett of the 174<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To authorize the assessment and collection of a technology fee by the Probate Court of  
2 Echols County; to identify the authorized uses of said technology fee; to provide for the  
3 maintenance of said technology fee funds; to authorize collaboration of the clerk of the  
4 Probate Court of Echols County with the finance director of Echols County; to provide for  
5 reports of income and expenditures; to provide for fund history reviews; to provide for  
6 lowering of the amount of said technology fee; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
7 purposes.

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

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 (a) The clerk of the Probate Court of Echols County is hereby authorized to charge and  
11 collect a technology fee to be set by the judge of the probate court in the amount of \$10.00  
12 for the filing of each civil action with the court and \$10.00 as a surcharge upon each fine  
13 assessed by the court. Such technology fees shall be used exclusively to provide for  
14 technological needs of the Probate Court of Echols County, the Superior Court of Echols  
15 County, the office of the Sheriff of Echols County, and the office of the Tax Commissioner  
16 of Echols County. Such uses shall include only the following:

- 17 (1) Computer hardware and software purchases;  
18 (2) Lease, maintenance, and installation of computer hardware; and  
19 (3) Purchase, lease, maintenance, and installation of imaging, scanning, facsimile,  
20 communications, projection, and printing equipment and software.

21 (b) Funds collected pursuant to this section shall be maintained in a segregated account by  
22 the clerk of the probate court or the clerk of the Echols County Board of Commissioners and  
23 shall be used only for the purposes authorized in this section at the direction of a board of  
24 trustees, which will consist of the judge of the probate court, the clerk of the superior court,  
25 the sheriff, the tax commissioner, and one member of the board of commissioners.

26 (c) The clerk of the probate court shall collaborate with the finance director of Echols  
27 County to ensure the effective implementation of this section.

28 (d) At the end of each calendar year, the finance director of Echols County shall provide a  
29 detailed report of all income and expenditures of funds collected pursuant to this section to  
30 the board of trustees identified in subsection (b) of this section.

31 (e) Beginning on July 1, 2016, and every two years thereafter, the finance director of Echols  
32 County shall review the history of the fund established by this section, and any excess sums  
33 not expended or earmarked for the purposes specified in this section shall be paid into the  
34 general fund of the Echols County Board of Commissioners.

35 (f) On or after July 1, 2017, the finance director of Echols County and the board of trustees  
36 identified in subsection (b) of this section shall review the history of the fund created by this  
37 section and the board of trustees shall be authorized, with the advice and consent of the  
38 Board of Commissioners of Echols County, to set the technology fee at an even dollar figure  
39 less than \$10.00 by an order filed with the clerk of the probate court.

40

## **SECTION 2.**

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