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House Bill 1019

By: Representatives Reeves of the 99th, Burns of the 159th, Blackmon of the 146th, Jones of the 47th, Knight of the 134th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

- 1 To amend Part 1 of Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia
- 2 Annotated, relating to tax exemption, so as to increase the amount of a statewide homestead
- 3 exemption from certain ad valorem taxes; to provide for applicability; to provide for related
- 4 matters; to provide for compliance with constitutional requirements; to provide for a
- 5 referendum, effective dates, and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
- 6 purposes.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 SECTION 1.

- 9 Part 1 of Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
- 10 relating to tax exemption, is amended by revising Code Section 48-5-44, relating to
- exemption of homestead occupied by owner, effect of participation in rural housing program
- 12 on homestead exemption, and limits, as follows:
- 13 "48-5-44.
- 14 The homestead of each resident of this state actually occupied by the owner as a residence
- and homestead shall be exempted from all ad valorem taxation for state, county, and school
- purposes, except taxes levied by municipalities for school purposes and except to pay

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interest on and to retire bonded indebtedness, for as long as the residence and homestead is actually occupied by the owner primarily as a residence and homestead. The exemption shall not exceed \$2,000.00 \$4,000.00 of the value of the homestead. Should the owner of a dwelling house on a farm who is already entitled to a homestead exemption participate in the program of rural housing and obtain a new house under contract with the local housing authority, he or she shall be entitled to receive the same homestead exemption as allowed before making the contract. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, the value of all homestead property in excess of \$2,000.00 \$4,000.00 shall remain subject to taxation. The exemption shall be returned and claimed in the manner prescribed by law. This exemption shall not apply to taxes levied by municipalities."

SECTION 2.

In accordance with the requirements of Article VII, Section II of the Constitution of the State of Georgia, this Act shall not become law unless it receives the requisite two-thirds' majority vote in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

31 SECTION 3.

The Secretary of State shall call and conduct an election as provided in this section for the purpose of submitting this Act to the electors of the entire state for approval or rejection. The Secretary of State shall conduct such election no later than the Tuesday next following the first Monday in November, 2024, and shall issue the call and conduct such election as provided by general law. The Secretary of State shall cause the date and purpose of the election to be published once a week for two weeks immediately preceding the date thereof in the official organ of each county in the state. The ballot shall have written or printed thereon the words:

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40 "() YES Shall the Act be approved which increases from \$2,000.00 to \$4,000.00 a 41 () NO statewide homestead exemption from ad valorem taxes for state, county, and 42 school purposes, other than municipal school purposes and other than to pay 43 interest on and retire bonded indebtedness, for a homestead occupied by its 44 owner?" 45 All persons desiring to vote for approval of the Act shall vote "Yes," and all persons desiring 46 to vote for rejection of the Act shall vote "No." If more than one-half of the votes cast on 47 such question are for approval of the Act, Section 1 of this Act shall become of full force and 48 effect on January 1, 2025. If the Act is not so approved or if the election is not conducted 49 as provided in this section, Section 1 of this Act shall not become effective and this Act shall 50 be automatically repealed on the first day of January immediately following such election 51 date. It shall be the duty of each county election superintendent to certify the results thereof 52 to the Secretary of State.

SECTION 4.

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

56 SECTION 5.

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