

House Bill 166

By: Representative Ehrhart of the 36th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 19 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to the State Bar of Georgia, so as to provide for license fees and other moneys
3 collected by the State Bar to be paid into the general fund of the state treasury and expended
4 in compliance with the laws of this state and the rules and regulations of the State Bar; to
5 provide for the appropriation of such funds for the State Bar; to provide for related matters;
6 to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 2 of Chapter 19 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
10 State Bar of Georgia, is amended by revising Code Section 15-19-31, relating to adoption of
11 rules for organization and government of the State Bar of Georgia, as follows:

12 "15-19-31.

13 (a) The Supreme Court shall have the authority by appropriate orders, upon
14 recommendation made by the State Bar of Georgia, to adopt rules and regulations for the
15 organization and government of the unified state bar and to define the rights, duties, and
16 obligations of the members therein, including the payment of a reasonable license fee, and

otherwise to regulate and govern the practice of law in this state, to the end that the unified state bar shall promote the best interest of the public by maintaining high standards of conduct in the legal profession and by aiding in the efficient administration of justice.

(b) The reasonable license fee provided for under subsection (a) of this Code section and any other charges or fees imposed upon the practice of law in this state shall be collected by the State Bar of Georgia and remitted to the general fund of the state treasury within 60 days of receiving such funds. The General Assembly shall annually appropriate funds for the State Bar of Georgia consistent with Article III, Section IX of the Constitution of Georgia. All appropriated funds shall be expended by the State Bar of Georgia in compliance with the laws of this state and the rules and regulations of the State Bar of Georgia adopted pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section."

SECTION 2.

This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

SECTION 3.

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