

House Bill 657

By: Representatives Neal of the 79th, Stoner of the 40th, and Gilliard of the 162nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 1 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to law
2 enforcement officers and agencies generally, so as to provide minimum compensation for
3 state, county, and municipal law enforcement personnel; to provide for grants to counties and
4 municipalities; to provide for a definition; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
5 laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 1 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to law enforcement
9 officers and agencies generally, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

10 "35-1-24.

11 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'law enforcement officer' means any peace
12 officer who is employed by the State of Georgia or any county, municipality, or
13 consolidated government thereof and who is required by the terms of his or her
14 employment, whether by election or appointment, to give his or her full time to the
15 preservation of public order or the protection of life and property or the prevention of
16 crime. Such term shall include game wardens.

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17 (b) Each law enforcement officer of this state shall receive a minimum annual salary
18 of \$55,000.00.

19 (c) Subject to appropriations, the department may implement a grant program to provide
20 funds to counties, municipalities, and consolidated governments to facilitate their
21 compliance with subsection (b) of this Code Section. Any such grants shall be subject to
22 approval by the Governor based upon a showing of need of each county, city, or
23 consolidated government applicant in relation to other applicants provided by the
24 department to the Governor. Any appropriations made pursuant to this subsection shall
25 lapse upon the conclusion of the then current fiscal year."

26 **SECTION 2.**

27 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.