

The House Committee on Ways and Means offers the following substitute to HB 92:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 48-5-44.2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 base year homestead exemption, so as to postpone the date by which local governing
3 authorities are authorized to opt out of such homestead exemption; to provide for related
4 matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Code Section 48-5-44.2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to base year
8 homestead exemption, is amended by revising subsection (i) as follows:

9 "(i) The governing authority of any county, consolidated government, municipality, or
10 school district may elect to opt out of the homestead exemption otherwise granted by
11 subsection (b) of this Code section with respect to such political subdivision through the
12 adoption of a resolution to do the same by ~~March~~ May 1, 2025, after completing the
13 following steps:

14 (1) The governing authority shall advertise its intent to do so and shall conduct at least
15 three public hearings thereon, at least one of which shall commence between the hours
16 of 6:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M., inclusive, on a business weekday. The governing authority

17 shall place an advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation serving the residents
18 of the political subdivision and post such advertisement on its website, which shall read
19 as follows:

20 'INTENT TO OPT OUT OF HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

21 The (name of governing authority) intends to opt out of the statewide adjusted base
22 year ad valorem homestead exemption for (name of the political subdivision).

23 All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on this matter to be held at
24 (place of meeting) on (date and time).

25 Times and places of additional public hearings on this matter are at (place of meeting)
26 on (date and time).'

27 Simultaneously with this notice the governing authority shall provide a press release to
28 the local media.

29 (2) The advertisement required by paragraph (1) of this subsection shall appear at least
30 one week prior to each hearing, be prominently displayed, be not less than 30 square
31 inches, and not be placed in that section of the newspaper where legal notices appear and
32 shall be posted on the appropriate website at least one week prior to each hearing. In
33 addition to the advertisement specified under this paragraph, the levying or
34 recommending authority may include in the notice reasons or explanations for its
35 intention to opt out of the homestead exemption.

36 (3) No resolution to opt out of the homestead exemption shall become effective with
37 respect to a political subdivision unless the procedures and hearings required by this
38 subsection are completed and a copy of such resolution is filed with the Secretary of State
39 by ~~March~~ May 1, 2025."

40 **SECTION 2.**

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

43 **SECTION 3.**

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