

House Bill 260

By: Representatives Reeves of the 99<sup>th</sup>, Blackmon of the 146<sup>th</sup>, Camp of the 135<sup>th</sup>, Donatucci of the 105<sup>th</sup>, Silcox of the 53<sup>rd</sup>, 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 property tax exemptions, so as to increase the amount of a state-wide  
3 homestead exemption from certain ad valorem taxes; to provide for related matters; to  
4 provide for compliance with constitutional requirements; to provide for a referendum,  
5 effective dates, and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Part 1 of Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
9 relating to property tax exemptions, is amended by revising Code Section 48-5-44, relating  
10 to exemption of homestead occupied by owner and effect of participation in rural housing  
11 program on homestead exemption, and limits, as follows:

12 "48-5-44.

13 The homestead of each resident of this state actually occupied by the owner as a residence  
14 and homestead shall be exempted from all ad valorem taxation for state, county, and school  
15 purposes, except taxes levied by municipalities for school purposes and except to pay  
16 interest on and to retire bonded indebtedness, for as long as the residence and homestead

17 is actually occupied by the owner primarily as a residence and homestead. The exemption  
18 shall not exceed ~~\$2,000.00~~ \$5,000.00 of the value of the homestead. Should the owner of  
19 a dwelling house on a farm who is already entitled to a homestead exemption participate  
20 in the program of rural housing and obtain a new house under contract with the local  
21 housing authority, he or she shall be entitled to receive the same homestead exemption as  
22 allowed before making the contract. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, the  
23 value of all homestead property in excess of ~~\$2,000.00~~ \$5,000.00 shall remain subject to  
24 taxation. The exemption shall be returned and claimed in the manner prescribed by law.  
25 This exemption shall not apply to taxes levied by municipalities."

26 **SECTION 2.**

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

30 **SECTION 3.**

31 The Secretary of State shall call and conduct an election as provided in this section for the  
32 purpose of submitting this Act to the electors of the entire state for approval or rejection. The  
33 Secretary of State shall conduct such election no later than the Tuesday next following the  
34 first Monday in November, 2026, and shall issue the call and conduct such election as  
35 provided by general law. The Secretary of State shall cause the date and purpose of the  
36 election to be published once a week for two weeks immediately preceding the date thereof  
37 in the official organ of each county in the state. The ballot shall have written or printed  
38 thereon the words:

