

House Bill 1338

By: Representatives Stephens of the 164th, Hitchens of the 161st, Jackson of the 165th, Petrea of the 166th, and Gilliard of the 162nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act providing for a homestead exemption from certain City of Savannah ad
2 valorem taxes for municipal purposes in an amount equal to the amount by which the current
3 year assessed value of a homestead exceeds the adjusted assessed value of such homestead
4 for the taxable year immediately preceding the taxable year in which this exemption was first
5 granted to the current owner of such homestead, approved April 13, 1999 (Ga. L. 1999, p.
6 4223), as amended, so as to prevent any increases in the adjusted base year assessed value
7 of properties above the value set in tax year 2025; to provide for compliance with
8 constitutional requirements; to provide for a referendum, effective dates, automatic repeal,
9 mandatory execution of election, and judicial remedies regarding failure to comply; to
10 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

12 **SECTION 1.**

13 An Act providing for a homestead exemption from certain City of Savannah ad valorem
14 taxes for municipal purposes in an amount equal to the amount by which the current year
15 assessed value of a homestead exceeds the adjusted assessed value of such homestead for the
16 taxable year immediately preceding the taxable year in which this exemption was first

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17 granted to the current owner of such homestead, approved April 13, 1999 (Ga. L. 1999, p.
18 4219), as amended, is amended in Section 1 by revising paragraph (2) of subsection (a) as
19 follows:

20 "(2) 'Adjusted base year assessed value' means an amount equal to the assessed value of
21 such homestead for the base year, increased annually by the percentage of any increase
22 in the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor
23 Statistics of the United States Department of Labor from the base year to tax year 2025.
24 However, in the event that the assessed value for the current year is less than or equal to
25 the assessed value for the base year, then the adjusted base year assessed value shall equal
26 the current year assessed value. In no event shall the adjusted base year assessed value
27 for a tax year after tax year 2026 exceed the adjusted base year assessed value for such
28 homestead for tax year 2025."

29 **SECTION 2.**

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

33 **SECTION 3.**

34 The municipal election superintendent of the City of Savannah shall call and conduct an
35 election as provided in this section for the purpose of submitting this Act to the electors of
36 the City of Savannah for approval or rejection. The municipal election superintendent shall
37 conduct that election on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November of 2026 and
38 shall issue the call and conduct that election as provided by general law. The municipal
39 election superintendent shall cause the date and purpose of the election to be published once
40 a week for two weeks immediately preceding the date thereof in the official organ of
41 Chatham County. The ballot shall have written or printed thereon the words:

67

SECTION 5.

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