

House Bill 1562 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representative Camp of the 135th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend an Act providing a homestead exemption from all Pike County ad valorem taxes
2 for county purposes for certain residents of that county who are totally disabled, approved
3 May 13, 2002 (Ga. L. 2002, p. 5732), so as to increase the amount of the homestead
4 exemption for residents of Pike County who are totally disabled; to provide for increased
5 amounts of homestead exemptions for certain residents who have resided in the county for
6 a certain amount of time; to provide for compliance with constitutional requirements; to
7 provide for a referendum, effective dates, automatic repeal, mandatory execution of election,
8 and judicial remedies regarding failure to comply; to provide for applicability; to provide for
9 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 An Act providing a homestead exemption from all Pike County ad valorem taxes for county
13 purposes for certain residents of that county who are totally disabled, approved May 13, 2002
14 (Ga. L. 2002, p. 5732), is amended by revising subsection (b) of Section 1 as follows:

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40 the first Monday in November, 2026, and shall issue the call and conduct that election as
 41 provided by general law. The election superintendent shall cause the date and purpose of the
 42 election to be published once a week for two weeks immediately preceding the date thereof
 43 in the official organ of Pike County. The ballot shall have written or printed thereon the
 44 words:

45 "() YES Shall the Act be approved which increases the homestead exemption for
 46 totally disabled residents of Pike County to \$15,000.00 for all totally
 47 () NO disabled residents, \$17,500.00 for all totally disabled residents age 70 or
 48 older who have resided in the county for five to nine years, \$22,500.00 for
 49 all totally disabled residents age 75 or older who have resided in the county
 50 for ten to 19 years, and \$30,000.00 for all totally disabled residents age 80
 51 or older who have resided in the county for 20 or more years?"

52 All persons desiring to vote for approval of the Act shall vote "Yes," and all persons desiring
 53 to vote for rejection of the Act shall vote "No." If more than one-half of the votes cast on
 54 such question are for approval of the Act, Section 1 of this Act shall become of full force and
 55 effect on January 1, 2027. If the Act is not so approved or if the election is not conducted
 56 as provided in this section, Section 1 of this Act shall not become effective, and this Act shall
 57 be automatically repealed on the 365th calendar day following the election date provided for
 58 in this section. The expense of such election shall be borne by Pike County. It shall be the
 59 election superintendent's duty to certify the result thereof to the Secretary of State. The
 60 provisions of this section shall be mandatory upon the election superintendent and are not
 61 intended as directory. If the election superintendent fails or refuses to comply with this
 62 section, any elector of Pike County may apply for a writ of mandamus to compel the election
 63 superintendent to perform his or her duties under this section. If the court finds that the
 64 election superintendent has not complied with this section, the court shall fashion appropriate
 65 relief requiring the election superintendent to call and conduct such election on the date

66 required by this section or on the next date authorized for special elections provided for in
67 Code Section 21-2-540 of the O.C.G.A.

68 **SECTION 4.**

69 Except as otherwise provided in Section 3 of this Act, this Act shall become effective upon
70 its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

71 **SECTION 5.**

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