

House Bill 1178 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representative Benton of the 31st

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act providing a homestead exemption from City of Commerce independent
2 school district ad valorem taxes for educational purposes in the amount of \$10,000.00 of the
3 assessed value of the homestead for certain residents of that school district who are 62 years
4 of age or over and an additional homestead exemption in the amount of \$20,000.00 of the
5 assessed value of the homestead for certain residents of that school district who are 65
6 years of age or over and whose net income, excluding certain retirement income, does not
7 exceed \$18,000.00, approved April 25, 2002 (Ga. L. 2002, p. 4349), as amended, so as to
8 require yearly income statements to continue to receive the exemption; to provide for related
9 matters; to provide for an effective date and for applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and
10 for other purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

12 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

13 An Act providing a homestead exemption from City of Commerce independent school
14 district ad valorem taxes for educational purposes in the amount of \$10,000.00 of the
15 assessed value of the homestead for certain residents of that school district who are 62 years
16 of age or over and an additional homestead exemption in the amount of \$20,000.00 of the
17 assessed value of the homestead for certain residents of that school district who are 65 years
18 of age or over and whose net income, excluding certain retirement income, does not
19 exceed \$18,000.00, approved April 25, 2002 (Ga. L. 2002, p. 4349), as amended, is amended
20 by revising Section 4 as follows:

21 style="text-align:center">"SECTION 4.

22 The exemption shall be claimed and returned as provided in Code Section 48-5-50.1 of
23 the O.C.G.A. The exemption shall be automatically renewed from year to year as long
24 as the owner occupies the residence as a homestead and does not exceed the income limit
25 in effect in accordance with Section 2. After a person has filed the proper application as

26 provided in this Act, it shall not be necessary to make application thereafter for any year,
27 and the exemption shall continue to be allowed to such person; provided, however, that
28 such person shall be required to annually submit a copy of his or her federal income tax
29 return for the prior calendar year, by a date to be provided by the governing authority of
30 the City of Commerce or the designee thereof, or such person's exemption granted by this
31 Act shall be suspended until such return or returns are submitted. It shall be the duty of
32 any person granted the homestead exemption under Section 2 to notify the governing
33 authority of the City of Commerce, or the designee thereof, in the event that person for
34 any reason becomes ineligible for that exemption."

35 **SECTION 2.**

36 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2021, and shall apply to all taxable years
37 beginning on or after January 1, 2021.

38 **SECTION 3.**

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