

House Bill 705 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representative Mathis of the 144<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To authorize the Probate Court of Bleckley County to charge a technology fee; to specify the  
2 uses to which said technology fee may be assigned; to provide for the termination of said  
3 technology fee and dedication of residual funds to technology uses; to provide for related  
4 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 (a) The clerk of the Probate Court of Bleckley County shall be entitled to charge and  
8 collect a technology fee to be set by the judge of the probate court in the amount not to  
9 exceed \$5.00 as a surcharge to each filing of a civil action or proceeding and upon each  
10 fine assessed by the court. Technology fees shall be used exclusively to provide for the  
11 technological needs of said court, including:

- 12 (1) Computer hardware, software, and accessory purchases;  
13 (2) Lease, maintenance, and installation costs for computer hardware;  
14 (3) Purchase, lease, maintenance, and installation of imaging, scanning, facsimile,  
15 communication, projection, printing equipment, and software; and

16 (4) Procurement of services and equipment for the conservation of court records and  
17 archiving the same to digital contents for public access.

18 (b) The fees collected pursuant to this section shall be maintained in a segregated fund by  
19 the clerk of the probate court, subject to auditing by an auditor approved by the governing  
20 authority of Bleckley County and shall be used only for the purposes authorized in this  
21 section.

22 (c) The authority to assess a technology fee pursuant to this Act shall terminate on  
23 July 1, 2031, and any residual funds remaining in the segregated account established by  
24 this Act shall then become dedicated to general Bleckley County technology uses.

25 **SECTION 2.**

26 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.