

House Bill 947 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representative Corbett of the 174th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To authorize the assessment and collection of a technology fee by the Probate Court of
2 Echols County; to identify the authorized uses of said technology fee; to provide for the
3 maintenance of said technology fee funds; to authorize collaboration of the clerk of the
4 Probate Court of Echols County with the finance director of Echols County; to provide for
5 reports of income and expenditures; to provide for fund history reviews; to provide for
6 lowering of the amount of said technology fee; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
7 purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 (a) The clerk of the Probate Court of Echols County is hereby authorized to charge and
11 collect a technology fee to be set by the judge of the probate court in the amount of \$10.00
12 for the filing of each civil action with the court and \$10.00 as a surcharge upon each fine
13 assessed by the court. Such technology fees shall be used exclusively to provide for
14 technological needs of the Probate Court of Echols County, the Superior Court of Echols
15 County, the office of the Sheriff of Echols County, and the office of the Tax Commissioner
16 of Echols County. Such uses shall include only the following:

- 17 (1) Computer hardware and software purchases;
18 (2) Lease, maintenance, and installation of computer hardware; and
19 (3) Purchase, lease, maintenance, and installation of imaging, scanning, facsimile,
20 communications, projection, and printing equipment and software.

21 (b) Funds collected pursuant to this section shall be maintained in a segregated account by
22 the clerk of the probate court or the clerk of the Echols County Board of Commissioners and
23 shall be used only for the purposes authorized in this section at the direction of a board of
24 trustees, which will consist of the judge of the probate court, the clerk of the superior court,
25 the sheriff, the tax commissioner, and one member of the board of commissioners.

26 (c) The clerk of the probate court shall collaborate with the finance director of Echols
27 County to ensure the effective implementation of this section.

28 (d) At the end of each calendar year, the finance director of Echols County shall provide a
29 detailed report of all income and expenditures of funds collected pursuant to this section to
30 the board of trustees identified in subsection (b) of this section.

31 (e) Beginning on July 1, 2016, and every two years thereafter, the finance director of Echols
32 County shall review the history of the fund established by this section.

33 (f) On or after July 1, 2017, the finance director of Echols County and the board of trustees
34 identified in subsection (b) of this section shall review the history of the fund created by this
35 section and the board of trustees shall be authorized, with the advice and consent of the
36 Board of Commissioners of Echols County, to set the technology fee at an even dollar figure
37 less than \$10.00 by an order filed with the clerk of the probate court.

38 (g) The authority to assess a technology fee pursuant to this section shall terminate on July 1,
39 2020, and any residual funds remaining in the fund established by this section shall remain
40 dedicated to general Echols County technology uses.

41 **SECTION 2.**

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