

House Bill 332

By: Representatives Sharper of the 177th, Randall of the 142nd, and Kidd of the 145th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 16 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to general provisions relative to coroners, so as to revise the qualifications for the
3 office of coroner; to provide for exceptions; to provide for related matters; to repeal
4 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

7 Article 1 of Chapter 16 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
8 general provisions relative to coroners, is amended in Code Section 45-16-1, relating to the
9 election, commission, removal, and qualifications of coroners, by revising subsection (b) and
10 adding a new subsection to read as follows:

11 "(b)(1) No person shall be eligible to offer for election to or to hold the office of coroner
12 unless he or she:

13 (A) Is a citizen of the United States;

14 (B) Is a resident of the county in which he or she seeks the office of coroner for at least
15 two years prior to his or her qualifying for the election to the office and remains a
16 resident of such county during his or her term of office;

17 (C) Is a registered voter;

18 (D) Has attained the age of 25 years prior to the date of the general primary in the year
19 he or she qualifies for election to the office;

20 (E) Has obtained a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent. This
21 subparagraph shall not apply to any person serving as a coroner on July 1, 1980;

22 (F) Except as provided for in subsection (b.1) of this Code section, is licensed to
23 practice practical nursing pursuant to Article 2 of Chapter 26 of Title 43; has been
24 certified by the Georgia Composite Medical Board prior to January 1, 2002, or by the
25 Department of Public Health on or after January 1, 2002, as having been trained in
26 emergency care techniques in a paramedic training course approved by the Department

27 of Public Health; or has completed at least two years of study in a medical program of
 28 any kind which provides for the same or greater level of skill or knowledge as a person
 29 licensed pursuant to Article 2 of Chapter 26 of Title 43 or trained in emergency care
 30 techniques as determined by the Department of Public Health;

31 (G) Has not been convicted of a felony offense or any offense involving moral
 32 turpitude contrary to the laws of this state, any other state, or the United States; and

33 ~~(G)~~(H) Has successfully completed the next scheduled class no longer than 180 days
 34 after such person's election or appointment a basic training course provided by the
 35 Georgia Police Academy, but the affidavit required by paragraph (2) of this subsection
 36 shall not be required to affirm that the requirements of this subparagraph have been met
 37 at the time of qualifying for the office of coroner.

38 (2) Each person offering his or her candidacy for the office of coroner shall file an
 39 affidavit with the officer before whom such person has qualified to seek the office of
 40 coroner prior to or at the time for qualifying, which affidavit shall affirm that he or she
 41 meets all of the qualifications required pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection.

42 (b.1)(1) Subparagraph (b)(1)(F) of this Code section shall not apply to any person
 43 currently holding the office of coroner on July 1, 2015.

44 (2) The Department of Public Health shall promulgate by rules and regulations the
 45 medical programs provided for under subparagraph (b)(1)(F) of this Code section."

46 **SECTION 2.**

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