

Senate Bill 226

By: Senators Gooch of the 51st, Jackson of the 24th, Wilkinson of the 50th, Bethel of the 54th, Mullis of the 53rd and others

**AS PASSED**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 16 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 coroners, so as to change certain provisions relating to investigation fees; to provide for  
3 changes to compensation options of coroners; 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 Chapter 16 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to coroners, is  
8 amended by revising subsection (c) of Code Section 45-16-11, relating to additional  
9 compensation, as follows:

10 (c) The minimum salaries provided for under this Code section shall be in addition to any  
11 fees, including the death investigation fee provided for under subsection (b) of Code  
12 Section 45-16-27, paid by the county governing authority to the coroner on a per-call basis  
13 and in addition to any expenses.

14 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

15 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsections (b) and (b.1) of Code Section  
16 45-16-27, relating to when inquests are required, investigation fees and costs, and  
17 photographs and video recordings not subject to disclosure, as follows:

18 "(b) On and after January 1, 2007, coroners shall be entitled to an investigation fee of  
19 \$175.00 where no jury is impaneled or a fee of \$250.00 where a jury is impaneled and shall  
20 be paid upon receipt of a monthly statement to the county treasury. A deputy coroner shall  
21 receive the same fee as the coroner for the performance of services in place of the coroner  
22 and shall be paid upon receipt of a monthly statement to the county treasury. Such fee shall  
23 be paid within ten days after receipt of the coroner's monthly statement by the county  
24 where the investigation or inquest is held except in counties where the coroner receives an

25 annual salary established through local legislation, in which case no fee shall be imposed  
26 upon the county by such salaried coroner or deputy coroner.

27 (b.1) ~~Any A local Acts Act~~ providing for the compensation of ~~the various coroners a~~  
28 coroner shall remain in full force and effect, except as otherwise provided in this  
29 subsection. In in those instances where such local Acts provide Act provides for a salary  
30 in an amount ~~which is~~ less than the amount of compensation such coroner would be entitled  
31 to pursuant to subsection (b) of this Code section, ~~in which case the coroner may select on~~  
32 ~~an annual basis beginning January 1, 2007, elect~~ to be compensated pursuant to subsection  
33 (b) of this Code section in lieu of the compensation or by the salary provided for by local  
34 Act. The coroner shall provide written notice to the county governing authority of such  
35 election no later than October 1 of any year to be effective January 1 of the next calendar  
36 year."

37 **SECTION 3.**

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