

The House Committee on Judiciary offers the following substitute to SB 19:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to courts, so as to
2 provide for written report disclosures regarding collection of passport application and
3 processing fees by clerks of superior courts and probate court judges; to provide for
4 applicability; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting
5 laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to courts, is amended in Code
9 Section 15-6-77, relating to fees and construction of other fee provisions, by revising
10 subsection (c) as follows:

11 "(c)(1) Any fees received as provided for in this Code section shall be paid into the
12 county treasury less and except such sums as are otherwise directed to be paid by the
13 clerk to another entity according to some other general law expressly providing for same,
14 including, but not limited to, any sums pursuant to Code Section 15-6-61 and such sums
15 as are collected pursuant to Code Section 15-6-77.4, 15-6-98, 36-15-9, 45-17-4,
16 or 47-14-51, which sums shall be remitted to such authorities as provided by law.

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17 (2) Fees Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, fees, sums, or
18 other remuneration for the performance of duties provided for under the laws of the
19 United States or regulations promulgated pursuant to such laws shall be as provided in
20 such laws or regulations as personal compensation to the clerk of the superior court for
21 the performance of such duties.

22 (3)(A) Fees, sums, or other remuneration for the performance of passport duties
23 provided for under the laws of the United States or regulations promulgated pursuant
24 to such laws, including, but not limited to, passport application or processing fees, shall
25 be subject to the requirements and limitations of this paragraph except as otherwise
26 provided in such laws or regulations.

27 (B) The clerk of the superior court shall disclose in a written report to the county
28 governing authority on a quarterly basis the total amount of all passport application or
29 processing fees, sums, or other remuneration received by the clerk during the previous
30 quarter."

31 **SECTION 2.**

32 Said title is further amended in Code Section 15-9-60, relating to fees of probate courts, by
33 adding a new subsection to read as follows:

34 "(c.1)(1) Fees, sums, or other remuneration for the performance of passport duties
35 provided for under the laws of the United States or regulations promulgated pursuant to
36 such laws, including, but not limited to, passport application or processing fees, shall be
37 subject to the requirements and limitations of this subsection to the extent not otherwise
38 required in such laws or regulations.

39 (2) The judge of the probate court shall disclose in a written report to the county
40 governing authority on a quarterly basis the total amount of all passport application or
41 processing fees, sums, or other remuneration received by the judge during the previous
42 quarter."

43 **SECTION 3.**

44 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2025.

45 **SECTION 4.**

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