

House Bill 1236

By: Representatives New of the 64th, Alexander of the 66th, Bruce of the 61st, and Thomas of the 65th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating the State Court of Douglas County, approved April 1, 1999 (Ga.
2 L. 1999, p. 3606), as amended, particularly by an Act approved May 13, 2008 (Ga. L. 2008,
3 p. 3847), and an Act approved May 6, 2009 (Ga. L. 2009, p. 3863), so as to add a third judge
4 for the State Court of Douglas County; to provide for the appointment of the initial additional
5 judge and the election of successors; to provide for terms of office of said additional judge
6 and successors to such judge; to update certain provisions to account for additional judges;
7 to provide for related matters; to provide effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
8 other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

11 An Act creating the State Court of Douglas County, approved April 1, 1999 (Ga. L. 1999,
12 p. 3606), as amended, particularly by an Act approved May 13, 2008 (Ga. L. 2008, p. 3847),
13 and an Act approved May 6, 2009 (Ga. L. 2009, p. 3863), is amended by revising
14 subsections (a) and (b) of Section 11 as follows:

15 "(a) As of the effective date of this Act, there shall be three judges of the State Court of
16 Douglas County. The judges serving on the day immediately preceding the effective date

17 of this Act shall serve out the terms to which they were elected or appointed and until their
18 successors are elected or appointed and qualified. The judges of such court shall be elected
19 by the qualified voters of Douglas County, as provided by Chapter 7 of Title 15 and Title
20 21 of the O.C.G.A.; provided, however, that the initial additional judge provided for by this
21 Act shall be appointed by the Governor for a term beginning July 1, 2025, and continuing
22 through December 31, 2026, and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. The
23 successor to such initial additional judge shall be elected in the manner provided by law
24 for the election of judges of the state courts of this state at the nonpartisan judicial election
25 in 2026, for a term of four years beginning on January 1, 2027, and until his or her
26 successor is elected and qualified. Future successors to the judges of the court shall be
27 elected at the nonpartisan general election conducted immediately prior to the expiration
28 of their terms of office. Such successors shall take office on the first day of January
29 following their election and shall serve for a term of office of four years and until their
30 respective successors are duly elected and qualified.

31 (b) Reserved."

32 **SECTION 2.**

33 Said Act is further amended by revising Sections 15 and 16 as follows:

34 "SECTION 15.

35 In the event that a judge of the State Court of Douglas County is unable to preside in the
36 court or is disqualified for any reason, then the chief judge may appoint a judge pro hac
37 vice to serve in his or her absence. Said judge pro hac vice shall meet the same
38 qualifications as the judges of the State Court of Douglas County.

39 SECTION 16.

40 The judges of the State Court of Douglas County may appoint official stenographers for
41 said court who shall report such cases as the court may require. Such stenographers shall
42 receive the same fees as allowed for similar services in the superior court which shall be
43 taxed and enforced as in the superior court."

44 SECTION 3.

45 For the purpose of appointing the additional judge provided for under this Act, this Act shall
46 become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such
47 approval. For all other purposes, this Act shall become effective on July 1, 2025.

48 SECTION 4.

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