

House Bill 1411 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Rhodes of the 120th and Williams of the 145th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act to revise, modernize, and consolidate the provisions of local law relating
2 to the State Court of Putnam County (formerly the County Court of Putnam County),
3 approved April 4, 1997 (Ga. L. 1997, p. 3839), as amended, so as to provide that on and after
4 January 1, 2023, the district attorney of the judicial circuit within which Putnam County is
5 located shall represent the state in all criminal prosecutions brought in the State Court of
6 Putnam County and shall perform the duties of the office of solicitor-general of the state
7 court; to provide for the powers, duties, and responsibilities of said district attorney in such
8 state court; to authorize the establishment of a state court division by said district attorney;
9 to provide for the assignment, appointment, and compensation of personnel by said district
10 attorney; to provide for annual budgeting; to provide for the transfer of books, papers, and
11 other office property to said district attorney; to provide that no election shall be held for the
12 office of solicitor-general of the state court; to provide for related matters; to repeal
13 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

15 **SECTION 1.**

16 An Act to revise, modernize, and consolidate the provisions of local law relating to the State
17 Court of Putnam County (formerly the County Court of Putnam County), approved
18 April 4, 1997 (Ga. L. 1997, p. 3839), as amended, is amended by revising Sections 14 and 15
19 as follows:

20 "SECTION 14.

21 (a) On and after January 1, 2023, the district attorney of the judicial circuit in which
22 Putnam County is located shall represent the state in all criminal cases in the State Court
23 of Putnam County as provided in subsection (c) of Code Section 15-18-60 of the O.C.G.A.
24 and shall have all of the duties, powers, and responsibilities of a solicitor-general as
25 provided by law. The district attorney of said circuit may establish a state court division
26 and designate assistant district attorneys to prosecute such cases in the State Court of
27 Putnam County as provided in subsection (c) of Code Section 15-18-60 of the O.C.G.A.

28 (b) In addition to any other personnel which said district attorney is authorized to appoint
29 pursuant to Article 1 of Chapter 18 of Title 15 of the O.C.G.A., the district attorney of said
30 circuit shall be authorized to appoint an assistant district attorney to assist in the
31 prosecution of criminal cases in the State Court of Putnam County, said assistant district
32 attorney to be compensated in an amount determined in accordance with the provisions of
33 Code Section 15-18-20 of the O.C.G.A. In addition, the district attorney shall be
34 authorized to appoint at least one administrative, clerical, and paraprofessional personnel
35 to provide support for the state court division. The compensation and number of such
36 additional personnel shall be determined by the governing authority of Putnam County as
37 part of the annual budget for said district attorney.

38 SECTION 15.

39 No election shall be held for the office of solicitor-general of the State Court of Putnam
40 County for the term of office that begins on or after January 1, 2023, and such office shall
41 stand abolished. On or after January 1, 2023, any reference in this Act or any other law of
42 this state to the solicitor-general of the State Court of Putnam County shall be deemed to
43 mean and refer to the district attorney of the judicial circuit in which Putnam County is
44 located. It shall be the duty of the solicitor-general of the State Court of Putnam County
45 to deliver all books, papers, and other office property to the district attorney of such circuit
46 as provided by Code Section 45-6-7 of the O.C.G.A. on or before the end of the term of
47 office to which said solicitor-general was elected or vacating said office, whichever occurs
48 first."

49 SECTION 2.

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