

House Bill 160

By: Representatives Smith of the 18<sup>th</sup>, Huddleston of the 72<sup>nd</sup>, and Howard of the 71<sup>st</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act establishing a city court in the city of Carrollton, in the county of Carroll,  
2 approved December 21, 1897 (Ga. L. 1897, p. 438), as amended, so as to provide an  
3 additional judge for such court; to provide for the appointment of such additional judge of  
4 such court; to provide for the election of successors; to provide for a chief judge; to provide  
5 for related matters; to provide for effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
6 purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 An Act establishing a city court in the city of Carrollton, in the county of Carroll, approved  
10 December 21, 1897 (Ga. L. 1897, p. 438), as amended, is amended by revising Section 4 as  
11 follows:

12 "SECTION 4.

13 (a)(1) As of July 1, 2025, there shall be a chief judge, who shall be the judge of the State  
14 Court of Carroll County serving at the time of the effective date of this Act, and one  
15 additional judge of such court who each shall be elected by the qualified voters of Carroll

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

30 (2) The judges of the State Court of Carroll County shall each be elected at nonpartisan  
31 general elections without a prior nonpartisan primary. Such elections shall be conducted  
32 as provided by general law.

33 (b) Each judge of the State Court of Carroll County shall receive an annual salary equal  
34 to 90 percent of the salary of the judge of Superior Court of Carroll County, exclusive of  
35 the supplements paid to the judge of superior court by the counties in the West Georgia  
36 Judicial Circuit. Such salaries shall be paid in equal monthly installments from county  
37 funds.

38 (c) The judges of such court shall be full-time judges, shall not engage in the private  
39 practice of law, and shall each devote his or her full time and efforts to the discharge of the  
40 duties of his or her office.

41 (d) Each judge is authorized to employ a secretary; and the person to be employed shall  
42 be selected in the sole discretion of the respective judge. The secretary of each judge shall

43 receive an annual salary of not less than \$14,750.00 which may be increased by the judge  
44 with the approval of the county governing authority. The secretaries' salaries shall be paid  
45 from county funds."

46 **SECTION 2.**

47 For the purpose of appointing the initial associate judge under this Act, this Act shall become  
48 effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.  
49 For all other purposes, this Act shall become effective on July 1, 2025.

50 **SECTION 3.**

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