

House Bill 947

By: Representatives Leverett of the 123rd, Efstoration of the 104th, Hong of the 103rd, Gunter of the 8th, and Oliver of the 82nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 6 of Title 15 the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating
2 to general provisions concerning superior courts, so as to modify provisions regarding the
3 compensation received by superior court judges; to provide procedures for superior court
4 judges to opt to receive compensation pursuant to such revised procedures; to provide for
5 grandfathering of certain judges so as to not reduce the compensation paid to such judges;
6 to authorize locality pay by counties to superior court judges in lieu of county salary
7 supplements; to abolish most county salary supplements provided to superior court judges;
8 to authorize the continuation of county salary supplements for chief judges; to authorize
9 continuation of fringe benefits provided by counties to superior court judges; to preserve
10 existing rights and obligations related to retirement benefits provided by counties to superior
11 court judges; to provide for retirement benefits relative to optional locality pay; to amend
12 Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to courts, so as to create the
13 Judicial System Compensation Commission; to provide for the purpose, membership, terms,
14 chairperson and other officers, committees, staffing, and funding for the commission; to
15 provide for meetings and members' expenses; to provide for the duties, powers, reporting,
16 and responsibilities of the commission; to amend Code Section 45-7-4 of the Official Code
17 of Georgia Annotated, relating to annual salaries of certain state officials and cost-of-living
18 adjustments, so as to revise provisions relating to calculating and setting the salaries of

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19 Justices of the Supreme Court, Judges of the Court of Appeals, the judge of the Georgia
20 State-wide Business Court, and superior court judges; to provide a definition; to amend
21 Chapter 3 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to laws and statutes,
22 so as to temporarily suspend the operation of local laws that use a superior court judge's
23 salary for the calculation of the salary or compensation of other officers, officials, or
24 employees; to preserve the authority of the General Assembly to amend or repeal such
25 suspended local laws; to preserve the authority of local governments to use other
26 mechanisms to change salary calculation during such suspension; to provide for legislative
27 construction; to provide for an effective date; to provide for related matters; to repeal
28 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

29 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

30 **SECTION 1.**

31 Article 1 of Chapter 6 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
32 general provisions concerning superior courts, is amended by revising Code Section 15-6-29,
33 relating to salary of judges, as follows:

34 "15-6-29.

35 (a) Except as provided for in subsection (b) of this Code section, the ~~The~~ annual salary of
36 the judges of the superior courts shall be as provided in Code Section 45-7-4 and may be
37 as provided in Code Section 15-6-29.1. The annual salary provided by Code
38 Section 45-7-4 shall be paid by The Council of Superior Court Judges of Georgia in 12
39 equal monthly installments.

40 (b)(1) Each superior court judge in office on July 1, 2024, shall have the option to
41 receive the annual salary provided by Code Section 45-7-4 and any locality pay provided
42 for by Code Section 15-6-29.2. The option provided by this paragraph shall be exercised
43 by such judge filing a written notification thereof with The Council of Superior Court

44 Judges of Georgia and the governing authority of each county comprising the judge's
45 judicial circuit. The failure to exercise the option by October 1, 2024, shall be an election
46 to continue to receive compensation as previously calculated and as outlined in
47 paragraph (2) of this subsection.

48 (2) To ensure that no superior court judges in office on July 1, 2024, have their salaries,
49 allowance, or county salary supplements decreased during their terms of office, any
50 superior court judge in office on July 1, 2024, who does not exercise the option provided
51 by paragraph (1) of this subsection shall continue to be compensated in precisely the same
52 manner as they were being compensated as of June 30, 2024, including, but not limited
53 to, county supplements.

54 (3) On or after July 1, 2025, in the event that the annual salary provided by Code
55 Section 45-7-4 and locality pay provided for by Code Section 15-6-29.2 exceeds the
56 annual salary and county salary supplements received by a judge who did not exercise the
57 option provided by paragraph (1) of this subsection, such judge may still exercise such
58 option by filing a written notification thereof with The Council of Superior Court Judges
59 of Georgia and the governing authority of each county comprising the judicial circuit.
60 The option exercised pursuant to this paragraph shall go into effect on the first day of the
61 state fiscal year following the exercising of such option.

62 (c) The annual salary shall be the total compensation to be paid by the state to the superior
63 court judges and shall be in lieu of any and all other amounts to be paid from The Council
64 of Superior Court Judges of Georgia, except as provided in Code Sections 15-6-29.1,
65 15-6-29.2, 15-6-30, and 15-6-32.

66 ~~(c) When a new superior court judgeship is created by law for any judicial circuit, the new~~
67 ~~superior court judge shall upon taking office become entitled to and shall receive from the~~
68 ~~county or counties comprising the circuit the same county salary supplement, if any, then~~
69 ~~in effect for the other judge or judges of the judicial circuit. Such salary supplement for~~
70 ~~such new judge shall be authorized by this subsection and no other legislation or local~~

71 ~~legislation shall be required in order to authorize such salary supplement, but nothing in~~
72 ~~this Code section shall be construed to prohibit the enactment of local legislation relating~~
73 ~~to such salary supplements. A publication of notice of intention to introduce local~~
74 ~~legislation as provided for in Code Section 28-1-14 shall be required for any local~~
75 ~~legislation granting, changing the amount of, or removing a salary supplement; but no~~
76 ~~publication of notice of intention shall be required for a bill creating one or more new~~
77 ~~superior court judgeships."~~

78 **SECTION 2.**

79 Said article is further amended in Code Section 15-6-29.1, relating to accountability court
80 supplement and limitation by repealing subsection (c) in its entirety.

81 **SECTION 3.**

82 Said article is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

83 "15-6-29.2.

84 (a) On or after July 1, 2024, the county or counties comprising a judicial circuit may
85 provide each judge of such circuit with locality pay as authorized under this Code section.
86 All such locality pay shall be in lieu of and not in addition to any county salary
87 supplements previously provided by the county or counties. All judges within a judicial
88 circuit who elect to exercise the option provided by paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of Code
89 Section 15-6-29 shall receive equal locality pay from any given county within such circuit
90 that has opted to provide such pay.

91 (b) In no event shall the annual locality pay provided to a judge by the county or counties
92 comprising a judicial circuit in aggregate exceed 10 percent of the state annual salary
93 provided by Code Section 45-7-4.

94 (c) When a new superior court judgeship is created by law for any judicial circuit, the new
95 superior court judge shall upon taking office become entitled to and shall receive from the

96 county or counties comprising the circuit the same locality pay, if any, then in effect for the
97 other judge or judges of the judicial circuit. Such locality pay for such new judge shall be
98 authorized by this subsection and no other legislation or local legislation shall be required
99 to authorize such locality pay.

100 (d) Except as provided for in subsection (b) of Code Section 15-6-29 and subsection (e)
101 of this Code section and notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, on and
102 after July 1, 2024, no county or counties comprising a judicial circuit shall provide county
103 salary supplements to a superior court judge.

104 (e)(1) Nothing in subsection (d) of this Code section shall operate to prevent a county or
105 counties comprising a judicial circuit from continuing to provide a local salary
106 supplement to the chief judge of the circuit that was otherwise authorized by law on
107 June 30, 2024. On or after July 1, 2024, no local supplement for a chief judge shall be
108 enacted or increased.

109 (2) For all judges who elect to exercise the option provided by paragraph (1) of
110 subsection (b) of Code Section 15-6-29, to the extent the salary provided for by
111 subsection (a) of Code Section 15-6-29 and locality pay provided for by subsection (a)
112 of this Code section to a particular judge do not equal or exceed that judge's aggregate
113 salary and local supplement in effect at the time of the judge's exercise of such option,
114 then the county or counties of the circuit shall pay an additional supplement in the same
115 ratio existing at the time of the judge's exercise of said option in an amount equal to the
116 difference between the aggregate salary and supplement in effect at the time of the judge's
117 exercise of such option and the salary provided for by subsection (a) of Code
118 Section 15-6-29 and locality pay provided for by subsection (a) of this Code section. In
119 no event shall the additional supplement required by this paragraph result in a judge's
120 aggregate pay that exceeds the aggregate salary and supplement existing at the time of
121 a judge's exercise of such option.

122 (f) Nothing in subsection (d) of this Code section shall operate to prevent a county or
123 counties comprising a judicial circuit from continuing to provide fringe benefits to any
124 judge of a judicial circuit in the same manner that such benefits were provided on
125 June 30, 2024.

126 (g) Nothing in this Code section or subsection (b) of Code Section 15-6-29 shall operate
127 to alter, amend, contract, expand, extend, limit, modify, or terminate retirement benefits or
128 rights thereto in existence prior to July 1, 2024. All judges who exercise the option
129 provided by paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of Code Section 15-6-29 shall have no right
130 to any benefit existing at the time such option is exercised reduced. To the extent otherwise
131 permitted by law, each county within a judicial circuit is authorized, but not required, to
132 provide retirement benefits based upon the locality pay it provides pursuant to
133 subsection (a) of this Code section."

134 **SECTION 4.**

135 Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to courts, is amended by revising
136 Chapter 22, which is reserved, as follows:

137 "CHAPTER 22

138 15-22-1.

139 (a) There is created the Judicial System Compensation Commission for the purpose of
140 conducting periodic comprehensive reviews of all aspects of compensation paid to justices,
141 judges, district attorneys, and circuit public defenders.

142 (b) As used in this chapter, the term 'commission' means the Judicial System
143 Compensation Commission.

144 15-22-2.

145 (a) The commission shall consist of nine appointed members. The Governor shall appoint
146 two citizen members, one of whom shall have experience in executive compensation who
147 is not an attorney. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall appoint three members
148 who shall be currently serving or be retired from serving as a judge or justice in this state,
149 provided that one such appointee is a current or former superior court or state court judge
150 and that at one such appointee is a current or former probate court judge or chief
151 magistrate. The Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House of Representatives
152 shall each appoint two members, neither of whom shall be attorneys. The chairperson of
153 the Senate Appropriations Committee, the chairperson of the House Committee on
154 Appropriations, the executive director of the Prosecuting Attorney's Council, and the
155 director of the Georgia Public Defender Council shall serve as ex officio nonvoting
156 members of the commission.

157 (b) Each member of the commission shall be appointed to serve for a term of four years
158 or until his or her successor is duly appointed. A member may be appointed to succeed
159 himself or herself on the commission. If a member of the commission is an elected or
160 appointed official, the member shall be removed from the commission if the member no
161 longer serves as such elected or appointed official.

162 (c) Vacancies on the commission shall be filled by appointment in the same manner as the
163 original appointment. An appointment to fill a vacancy, other than by expiration of a term
164 of office, shall be for the balance of the unexpired term.

165 (d) The Governor shall designate the chairperson of the commission. The commission
166 may elect other officers as it deems necessary. The chairperson of the commission may
167 designate and appoint committees from among the membership of the commission as well
168 as appoint other persons to perform such functions as he or she may determine to be
169 necessary as relevant to and consistent with this chapter. The chairperson shall only vote
170 to break a tie.

171 (e) The commission shall be attached for administrative purposes only to the
172 Administrative Office of the Courts. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide
173 staff support for the commission and shall use any funds specifically appropriated to it to
174 support the work of the commission.

175 15-22-3.

176 (a) The commission may conduct meetings at such places and times as it deems necessary
177 or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties,
178 and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this chapter. The commission shall hold
179 meetings at the call of the chairperson. The commission shall meet not less than twice
180 each year.

181 (b) A quorum for transacting business shall be a majority of the members of the
182 commission.

183 (c) Any legislative members of the commission shall receive the allowances provided for
184 in Code Section 28-1-8. Citizen members of the commission shall receive a daily expense
185 allowance in the amount specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 as well as the
186 mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state employees. Members of the
187 commission who are state officials, other than legislative members, or state employees shall
188 receive no compensation for their services on the commission, but shall be reimbursed for
189 expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties as members of the
190 commission in the same manner as they are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as
191 state officials or state employees. The funds necessary for the reimbursement of the
192 expenses of state officials, other than legislative members, and state employees shall come
193 from funds appropriated to or otherwise available to their respective departments. All other
194 funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this subsection shall come from funds
195 appropriated to the Senate and the House of Representatives.

196 15-22-4.

197 (a) The commission shall have the following duties:

198 (1) To review the conditions, needs, issues, and problems related to the efficient use of
199 resources and caseload balance of the justice system in this state and the compensation
200 paid to justices, judges, district attorneys, and circuit public defenders; issue a report on
201 the same to the executive counsel of the Governor, the Office of Planning and Budget,
202 and the chairpersons of the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate
203 Appropriations Committee, the House Committee on Judiciary, and the Senate Judiciary
204 Committee; and recommend any action or proposed legislation which the commission
205 deems necessary or appropriate. Nothing contained in the commission's report shall be
206 considered to authorize or require a change in any law without action by the General
207 Assembly. The commission shall issue its first report on or before December 15, 2025,
208 and at least every two years thereafter; and

209 (2) To evaluate and consider:

210 (A) Whether the compensation structure paid to justices, judges, district attorneys, and
211 circuit public defenders of this state is adequate to ensure that the most highly qualified
212 attorneys in this state, drawn from diverse life and professional experiences, are not
213 deterred from serving or continuing to serve in the state judiciary and do not become
214 demoralized during service because of compensation levels;

215 (B) The compensation paid as locality pay or county supplements to judges, district
216 attorneys, circuit public defenders, and other staff associated with the courts;

217 (C) The caseload demands of judicial officers, prosecuting attorneys, and public
218 defenders and the allocation of such officials, including staffing resources and
219 jurisdictional structure;

220 (D) The skill and experience required of the particular judgeships or attorney positions
221 at issue;

222 (E) The time required of the particular judgeships or attorney positions at issue;

223 (F) The value of compensable service performed by justices, judges, district attorneys,
224 and circuit public defenders as determined by reference to compensation in other states
225 and the federal government;

226 (G) The value of comparable service performed in the private sector, including private
227 judging, arbitration, and mediation, based on the responsibility and discretion required
228 in the particular judgeship at issue and the demand for those services in the private
229 sector;

230 (H) The compensation of attorneys in the private sector;

231 (I) The Consumer Price Index and changes in such index;

232 (J) The overall compensation presently received by other public officials and
233 employees; and

234 (K) Any other factors that are normally or traditionally taken into consideration in the
235 determination of compensation.

236 (b) The commission shall have the following powers:

237 (1) To produce findings, conclusions, and recommendations as to the proper salary and
238 benefits for all justices, judges, district attorneys, and circuit public defenders of this
239 state;

240 (2) To produce findings, conclusions, and recommendations as to the efficient use of
241 resources and caseload balance of the justice system in this state;

242 (3) To request and receive data from and review the records of appropriate state agencies,
243 local governments, and courts to the greatest extent allowed by state and federal law;

244 (4) To accept public or private grants, devises, and bequests;

245 (5) To authorize entering into contracts or agreements through the commission's
246 chairperson necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties;

247 (6) To establish rules and procedures for conducting the business of the commission; and

248 (7) To conduct studies, hold public meetings, collect data, or take any other action the
249 commission deems necessary to fulfill its responsibilities.

250 (c) The commission shall be authorized to retain the services of attorneys, consultants,
 251 subject matter experts, economists, budget analysts, data analysts, statisticians, and other
 252 individuals or organizations as deemed necessary or appropriate by the commission.
 253 ~~Reserved."~~

SECTION 5.

254 Code Section 45-7-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, related to annual salaries
 255 of certain state officials and cost-of-living adjustments, is amended as follows:

256 "45-7-4.

257 (a) The annual salary of each of the state officials listed below shall be as follows:

258 (1) Governor \$ 175,000.00

259 An allowance in an amount specified in the appropriations Act shall also
 260 be provided for the operation of the Governor's mansion.

261 (2) Lieutenant Governor 54,920.00

262 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the annual salary for
 263 the Lieutenant Governor for the 2021 fiscal year shall be reduced by an
 264 amount equal to 14 percent of the amount received for such office during
 265 the 2020 fiscal year.

266 (3) Adjutant general

267 The adjutant general shall continue to receive the pay and allowances under
 268 the same procedure as provided by law.

269 (4) Commissioner of Agriculture 100,429.00

270 (5) Attorney General 114,633.00

271 (6) Reserved.

272 (7) Commissioner of Insurance 100,396.00

273 (8) Reserved.

275	(9) Commissioner of Labor	100,418.00
276	The above amount of salary for the Commissioner of Labor shall include	
277	any compensation received from the United States government and the	
278	amount of state funds paid shall be reduced by the amount of compensation	
279	received from the United States government.	
280	(10) Reserved.	
281	(11) Each member of the Public Service Commission	96,655.00
282	(12) Reserved.	
283	(13) State School Superintendent	102,708.00
284	(14) Secretary of State	102,708.00
285	(15) Reserved.	
286	(16) Reserved.	
287	(17) Reserved.	
288	(18) Reserved. Each Justice of the Supreme Court	175,600.00
289	(19) Reserved. Each Judge of the Court of Appeals	174,500.00
290	(19.1) Reserved. Judge of the Georgia State-wide Business Court	174,500.00
291	(20) Reserved. Each superior court judge	126,265.00
292	(21) Each district attorney	120,072.00
293	(22) Each member of the General Assembly	16,200.00
294	(A) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the annual	
295	salary for each member of the General Assembly for the 2021 fiscal year	
296	shall be reduced by an amount equal to 10 percent of the amount received	
297	for such office during the 2020 fiscal year.	
298	(B) Each member of the General Assembly shall also receive the	
299	allowances provided by law. The amount of the daily expense allowance	

300 which each member is entitled to receive under the provisions of Code
301 Section 28-1-8 shall be as provided in that Code section. The mileage
302 allowance for the use of a personal car on official business shall be the
303 same as that received by other state officials and employees.

304 (C) In addition to any other compensation and allowances authorized for
305 members of the General Assembly, each member may be reimbursed for
306 per diem differential and for actual expenses incurred in the performance
307 of duties as a member of the General Assembly in an amount not to
308 exceed \$7,000.00 per year. Expenses reimbursable up to such amount
309 shall be limited to one or more of the following purposes: lodging, meals,
310 per diem differential, postage, personal services, printing and
311 publications, rents, supplies (including software), telecommunications,
312 transportation, utilities, purchasing or leasing of equipment, and other
313 reasonable expenditures directly related to the performance of a
314 member's duties. If equipment purchased by a member has a depreciated
315 value of \$100.00 or less when such member leaves office, the equipment
316 does not need to be returned to the state. No reimbursement shall be
317 made for any postage which is used for a political newsletter. No
318 reimbursement shall be paid for lodging or meals for any day for which
319 a member receives the daily expense allowance as provided in this
320 paragraph. Eligible expenses shall be reimbursed following the
321 submission of vouchers to the legislative fiscal office in compliance with
322 the requirements of this subparagraph and subject to the provisions of
323 subparagraph (E) of this paragraph. Such vouchers shall be submitted in
324 such form and manner as prescribed by the Legislative Services
325 Committee pursuant to subparagraph (E) of this paragraph, provided that
326 each such voucher shall be accompanied by a supporting document or

327 documents, or legible copies thereof, showing payment for each expense
328 claimed or an explanation of the absence of such documentation; in
329 addition, each such voucher shall include a certification by the member
330 that the information contained in such voucher and supporting document
331 or documents, or legible copies thereof, is true and correct and that such
332 expenses were incurred by the member. The provisions of Code
333 Section 16-10-20 shall be applicable to any person submitting such
334 certified vouchers and supporting documents or copies the same as if the
335 General Assembly were a department or agency of state government. No
336 such voucher or supporting document shall be required for per diem
337 differential.

338 (D) The amount of per diem differential which may be claimed for each
339 day under subparagraph (C) of this paragraph shall be the difference
340 between the daily expense allowance authorized for members of the
341 General Assembly and \$119.00; provided, however, that the General
342 Appropriations Act for any fiscal year may increase such amount
343 of \$119.00 per day to an amount not in excess of the federal per diem rate
344 then in effect for the state capital as specified by the General Services
345 Administration. Per diem differential shall be paid by the legislative
346 fiscal office to the member upon the member's notification to the
347 legislative fiscal office of the days for which the daily expense allowance
348 was received for which the member wishes to claim the per diem
349 differential, and the legislative fiscal office shall keep a record of the
350 days for which per diem differential is so claimed and paid.

351 (E) For the purposes of this paragraph, a year shall begin on the
352 convening date of the General Assembly in regular session each year and
353 end on the day prior to the convening of the General Assembly in the

354 next calendar year. Any voucher or claim for any reimbursement for any
355 year as defined in this paragraph shall be submitted no later than the
356 fifteenth of April immediately following the end of such year. No
357 reimbursement shall be made on any voucher or claim submitted after
358 that date. Any amounts remaining in such expense account at the end of
359 the first year of the two-year biennium may be claimed for expenses
360 incurred during the second year of the two-year biennium. Any amounts
361 remaining in any expense account which are not so claimed by April 15
362 of the year following the second year of the biennium and any amounts
363 claimed which are returned as hereafter provided for in this paragraph
364 shall lapse and shall be remitted by the legislative fiscal office to the
365 general fund of the state treasury. Any former member of the General
366 Assembly may be reimbursed for expenses incurred while a member of
367 the General Assembly upon compliance with the provisions of this
368 paragraph. The Legislative Services Committee is empowered to provide
369 such procedures as it deems advisable to administer the provisions of this
370 paragraph, including, but not limited to, definitions of the above list of
371 items for which reimbursement may be made; provided, however, that
372 the term 'other reasonable expenditures directly related to the
373 performance of a member's duties' shall be as defined by policies adopted
374 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and by the Senate
375 Administrative Affairs Committee as to reimbursement of such
376 expenditures incurred by members of the House and Senate, respectively;
377 and provided, further, that the amount of expenses which may be
378 reimbursed within the limits of subparagraph (C) of this paragraph for
379 travel outside the state may be as provided by policies adopted by the
380 Speaker of the House of Representatives and by the Senate

381 Administrative Affairs Committee as to such expenditures of members
 382 of the House and Senate, respectively. The Legislative Services
 383 Committee is further empowered to prescribe the form of the voucher or
 384 claim which must be submitted to the legislative fiscal office. In the
 385 event of any disagreement as to whether any reimbursement shall be
 386 made or any allowance shall be paid, the Legislative Services Committee
 387 shall make the final determination; except that in the event of any
 388 disagreement as to whether any reimbursement under subparagraph (C)
 389 of this paragraph shall be made for other reasonable expenses directly
 390 related to the performance of a member's duties or for travel outside the
 391 state, the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall make the final
 392 determination as to such expenses incurred by a member of the House,
 393 and the Senate Administrative Affairs Committee shall make the final
 394 determination as to such expenses incurred by a member of the Senate.
 395 In the event any reimbursement is made or any allowance is paid and it
 396 is later determined that such reimbursement or payment was made in
 397 error, the person to whom such reimbursement or payment was made
 398 shall remit to the legislative fiscal office the amount of money involved.
 399 In the event any such person refuses to make such remittance, the
 400 legislative fiscal office is authorized to withhold the payment of any other
 401 moneys to which such person is entitled until the amount of such
 402 reimbursement or payment which was made in error shall be realized.

403 (23) Speaker of the House of Representatives 17,800.00

404 The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall also receive the salary
 405 and allowances authorized as a member of the General Assembly. Upon
 406 the taking of office by the members of the General Assembly on the
 407 convening day of the regular session of the General Assembly in 1983, the
 408 annual salary of the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
 409 become \$22,800.00. After such date, the Speaker shall also receive as
 410 additional salary a sum equal to the amount of salary over \$30,000.00 per
 411 annum which is received by the Lieutenant Governor as of that date or
 412 thereafter; and the salary of the Speaker shall be adjusted at the beginning
 413 of each term so as to include such additional sum.

414 (24) President Pro Tempore of the Senate 4,800.00

415 The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall also receive the salary and
 416 allowances authorized as a member of the General Assembly.

417 (25) Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of Representatives 4,800.00

418 The Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of Representatives shall also
 419 receive the salary and allowances authorized as a member of the General
 420 Assembly.

421 (b) As an adjustment except as qualified below as to members and member-officers of the
 422 General Assembly, the annual salary of each state official whose salary is established by
 423 Code Section 45-7-3, this Code section, and Code Sections 45-7-20 and 45-7-21, including
 424 members of the General Assembly, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
 425 President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of
 426 Representatives, may be increased by the General Assembly in the General Appropriations
 427 Act by a percentage not to exceed the average percentage of the increase in salary as may
 428 from time to time be granted to employees of the executive, judicial, and legislative
 429 branches of government. However, any increase for such officials shall not include
 430 within-grade step increases for which employees subject to compensation plans authorized

431 and approved in accordance with Code Section 45-20-4 are eligible. Any increase granted
 432 pursuant to this subsection shall become effective at the same time that funds are made
 433 available for the increase for such employees, except increases for members and
 434 member-officers of the General Assembly. That portion of the increase determined by the
 435 Legislative Services Committee to reflect a cost-of-living increase based upon objective
 436 economic criteria shall become effective for members and member-officers at the same
 437 time that funds are made available for the increase for such employees. The balance of the
 438 increase for members and member-officers of the General Assembly shall become effective
 439 on the convening of the next General Assembly in January of the next odd-numbered year.
 440 The Office of Planning and Budget shall calculate the average percentage increase.

441 (c) The annual salary being received on June 30, 1980, shall be increased by 8 percent for
 442 each state official listed in subsection (a) of this Code section who:

- 443 (1) Is not a member of the General Assembly; and
- 444 (2) Is not a contributing member of a state retirement system and, therefore, does not
 445 benefit by or participate in any program whereunder a portion of the employee
 446 contributions to the state retirement system are made on behalf of the employee by the
 447 employer.

448 (d)(1) For the purposes this subsection, 'base salary' means the annual salary fixed for the
 449 judges of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia on July 1
 450 of the second preceding state fiscal year.

451 (2) Except as provided for in subsection (b) of Code Section 15-6-29, the annual salary
 452 of each of the state officials listed below shall be set by the General Assembly in the
 453 General Appropriations Act, provided that such salary shall not exceed the ratio of the
 454 base salary listed below for such officials:

455	<u>(A) Each Justice of the Supreme Court.....</u>	<u>100%</u>
456	<u>(B) Each Judge of the Court of Appeals.....</u>	<u>95%</u>
457	<u>(C) Judge of the Georgia State-wide Business Court.....</u>	<u>92%</u>

458 (D) Each superior court judge.....90%."

459 SECTION 6.

460 Chapter 3 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, related laws and statutes is
461 amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

462 "1-3-12.

463 (a)(1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, from July 1, 2024, through
464 June 30, 2025, all local laws that provide for a salary, supplement, or other compensation
465 to be paid to a state, county, or local officer, official, or employee based on a percentage
466 of, total compensation for, or similar mathematical relationship to a superior court judge's
467 salary or supplement shall be suspended with respect to any salary, supplement, or other
468 compensation increase during the term of such suspension as a matter of law.

469 (2) No change in the salary of a superior court judge shall result in a change in the
470 calculation of any compensation to be paid by any county, municipality, consolidated, or
471 other local government that may otherwise be required pursuant to a local law during the
472 period of suspension provided for in paragraph (1) of this Code section. The provisions
473 of this subsection do not repeal or amend any such local law, and the provisions of such
474 local laws related to calculating compensation are merely suspended until otherwise
475 provided by this Code section.

476 (b) As of July 1, 2025, the suspension provided for in subsection (a) of this Code section
477 shall be terminated. Any salary or compensation change that otherwise would have gone
478 into effect between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, by operation of a local law if such
479 suspension did not occur shall go into effect for calculations of prospective salary or other
480 compensation accrued on or after July 1, 2025. The termination of the suspension provided
481 for in this subsection shall not entitle any officer, official, or employee to retroactive
482 compensation that he or she otherwise may have been earned except for such suspension.

483 and no such retroactive payments shall be made by any county, municipality, consolidated,
484 or other local government.

485 (c)(1) Nothing in this Code section shall operate to prevent the General Assembly from
486 repealing or amending, in whole or in part, any local law that is suspended pursuant to
487 subsection (a) of this Code section during the period of such suspension through the
488 enactment of local legislation.

489 (2) Nothing in this Code section shall operate to prevent a county, municipality,
490 consolidated, or other local government from enacting, during the period of the
491 suspension provided for in subsection (a) of this Code section, any salary or
492 compensation changes for any state, county, or local officer, official, or employee that
493 may otherwise be authorized by general or local law where such salary or compensation
494 calculations are not based upon the salary of a superior court judge."

495 **SECTION 7.**

496 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2024.

497 **SECTION 8.**

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