

Senate Bill 166

By: Senators Cowser of the 46th, Gooch of the 51st, Kennedy of the 18th, Harbin of the 16th and Walker III of the 20th

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 require certain procedures for disqualification of jurors; to provide for related matters; to  
3 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

5 **SECTION 1.**

6 Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to courts, is amended by revising  
7 Code Section 15-12-135, relating to disqualification for relationship to interested party, as  
8 follows:

9 "15-12-135.

10 (a) All trial jurors in the courts of this state shall be disqualified to act or serve in any case  
11 or matter when such jurors are related by consanguinity or affinity to any party interested  
12 in the result of the case or matter within the third degree as computed according to the civil  
13 law. Relationship more remote shall not be a disqualification.

14 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this Code section, jurors shall not be qualified in  
15 open court regarding a relationship with any insurance company that may have a financial  
16 interest in the outcome of the case. Rather, jurors shall complete a questionnaire that

17 identifies their current employers and their current insurance companies, if any. The court  
18 shall exclude any jurors for cause, after voir dire, if the questionnaire reveals a relationship  
19 to any insurance company that has a financial interest in the outcome of the case.  
20 ~~(b)~~(c) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this Code section, any juror, irrespective of his  
21 relationship to a party to the case or his interest in the case, shall be qualified to try any  
22 civil case when there is no defense filed unless one of the parties to the case objects to the  
23 related juror."

24

**SECTION 2.**

25 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.