

House Bill 1291

By: Representative Connell of the 115th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 7 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to state court judges and solicitors, so as to provide for reimbursement of travel and
3 educational expenses; to amend provisions relating to the Council of State Court Judges of
4 Georgia; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting
5 laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 2 of Chapter 7 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state
9 court judges and solicitors, is amended by adding a new Code section after Code Section
10 15-7-22, relating to compensation, to read as follows:

11 "15-7-22.1.

12 (a) The judges and senior judges of the state courts of this state shall be entitled to receive,
13 in addition to the compensation provided by law, reimbursement for travel and
14 accommodation expenses, per diem allowances for meals, and reimbursement for other
15 necessary similar expenses incurred when the judge attends a meeting of a judicial
16 administrative district, the Council of State Court Judges of Georgia, the Judicial Council
17 of Georgia, the Advisory Council for Probation, the Judicial Qualifications Commission,
18 or any committee or subcommittee of any such body, or when the judge attends a meeting
19 with the personnel of any state department or other state agency when the meeting is held
20 to carry out a public purpose. Judges and senior judges of the state courts shall also be
21 entitled to reimbursement under this Code section for the actual expenses of continuing
22 judicial education within the state and outside the state, including any tuition fees,
23 registration fees, accommodation expenses, per diem allowances for meals, or other similar
24 expenses necessary to receive the education.

1 (b) To the extent a judge or senior judge of a state court is not reimbursed for expenses
2 provided for by this Code section from funds appropriated for the operation of the Institute
3 of Continuing Judicial Education or from funds appropriated for the operation of the
4 Council of State Court Judges of Georgia, a judge shall be authorized to seek
5 reimbursement for any unreimbursed expense from the local governing authority in which
6 the judge is elected or appointed.

7 (c) A judge or senior judge of a state court shall submit a detailed statement of the items
8 of expense, as authorized by this Code section, to the fiscal officer of the Institute of
9 Continuing Judicial Education or the Council of State Court Judges of Georgia or to the
10 fiscal officer of the governing authority of the county in which the judge is elected or
11 appointed. The fiscal officer disbursing the funds shall audit each statement for
12 reimbursement and, if found correct, approve and issue payment."

13 SECTION 2.

14 Said article is further amended in Code Section 15-7-26, relating to the Council of State
15 Court Judges of Georgia, by striking subsection (a) and inserting in lieu thereof the
16 following:

17 "(a) There is created a state court judges' council to be known as 'The Council of State
18 Court Judges of Georgia.' The council shall be composed of the judges, senior judges, and
19 judges emeriti of the state courts of this state. The council is authorized to organize itself
20 and to develop a constitution and bylaws. ~~The officers of said council shall consist of a~~
21 ~~president, a president-elect, a secretary, and a treasurer. The executive committee of said~~
22 ~~council shall consist of the officers, the immediate past president, and two additional~~
23 ~~members elected by the council."~~

24 SECTION 3.

25 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2003.

26 SECTION 4.

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