

Senate Bill 437

By: Senators Thompson of the 33rd, Tanksley of the 32nd, Meyer von Bremen of the 12th and Hecht of the 34th

AS PASSED SENATE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 2 of Article 1 of Chapter 11 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to juvenile court administration, so as to provide for salary adjustments
3 for full-time juvenile court judges who are paid with state funds; to provide for related
4 matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Part 2 of Article 1 of Chapter 11 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
8 relating to juvenile court administration, is amended by striking subsection (d) of Code
9 Section 15-11-18, relating to creation of juvenile courts and provisions relative to juvenile
10 court judges, in its entirety and inserting a new subsection to read as follows:

11 *"(d) Terms and compensation of judges.*

12 (1) Each juvenile court judge appointed under this Code section shall serve for a term of
13 four years. Except as otherwise provided by law, the compensation of the full-time or
14 part-time juvenile court judges shall be set by the superior court as provided in subsection
15 (h) of this Code section with the approval of the governing authority or governing
16 authorities of the county or counties for which the juvenile court judge is appointed.

17 (2) The state, out of funds appropriated to the judicial branch of government, shall
18 contribute toward the salary of the judges on a per circuit basis in the following amounts:

19 (A) Each circuit with one or more juvenile court judges who are not superior court
20 judges assuming the duties of juvenile court judges shall receive a state grant of
21 \$85,000.00, plus any annual salary adjustments provided to state officials in the future
22 by subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-4 without regard to the number of superior
23 court judges in the circuit. Such state funds shall be spent solely on salaries for juvenile
24 court judges and shall not be used for any other purposes.

25 (B) In addition to the base amount set out in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, each
26 circuit which on or after October 1, ~~2000~~ 2002, has more than four superior court

1 judges is eligible for additional state grants. For each superior court judge who exceeds
 2 the base of four judges, the circuit shall be eligible for an additional grant in an amount
 3 equal to one-fourth of the base amount of the state grant set out in subparagraph (A) of
 4 this paragraph. Such additional state grants shall be spent solely on salaries for juvenile
 5 court judges and shall not be used for any other purposes.

6 (C) In those circuits where the judge or judges of the superior court elect to use the
 7 state grant provided in this Code section for one or more part-time judges, the amount
 8 of the state grant shall be as follows:

- 9 (i) For each part-time judge who works one day weekly \$ 17,000.00
- 10 (ii) For each part-time judge who works two days weekly 34,000.00
- 11 (iii) For each part-time judge who works three days weekly 51,000.00
- 12 (iv) For each part-time judge who works four days weekly 68,000.00;

13 provided, however, that a grant for one or more part-time judges shall not exceed the
 14 amount the circuit is eligible for in accordance with subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this
 15 paragraph.

16 (3) After the initial appointments and prior to any subsequent appointment or
 17 reappointment of any part-time or full-time juvenile court judge under this Code section,
 18 the judge or judges responsible for making the appointment shall publish notice of the
 19 opening on the juvenile court once a month for three months prior to such appointment
 20 or reappointment in the official legal organs of each of the counties in the circuit where
 21 the juvenile court judge has venue. The expense of such publication shall be paid by the
 22 county governing authority in the county where such notice or notices are published.

23 (4) Minimum salaries for full-time juvenile court judges shall be as provided in
 24 subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) of this subsection, plus any annual salary adjustment
 25 provided to state officials in the future by subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-4 without
 26 regard to the number of superior court judges in the circuit."

27 **SECTION 2.**

28 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
 29 without such approval.

30 **SECTION 3.**

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