

House Bill 1672

By: Representatives Knox of the 28th and Muntean of the 85th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act to create the State Court of Forsyth County, approved April 15, 1996 (Ga.
2 L. 1996, p. 4558), as amended, particularly by an Act approved April 14, 1997 (Ga. L. 1997,
3 p. 4173), so as to create an additional judge for such court; to provide for appointment and
4 election; to provide for qualifications; to provide for compensation; to provide for assistance
5 for such judges; to provide for court reporters; to provide for related matters; to repeal
6 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 An Act to create the State Court of Forsyth County, approved April 15, 1996 (Ga. L. 1996,
10 p. 4558), as amended, particularly by an Act approved April 14, 1997 (Ga. L. 1997, p. 4173),
11 is amended by striking subsection (a) of Section 3 of the Act and inserting in lieu thereof a
12 new subsection (a) and adding a new subsection (d) to read as follows:

13 "(a) There shall be two judges of the State Court of Forsyth County who shall be selected
14 as provided in this section. Qualifying and primary elections preceding the general election
15 shall be as required by law."

16 "(d) The second judge of the State Court of Forsyth County shall be appointed by the
17 Governor to an initial term of office beginning on January 1, 2003, and continuing through
18 December 31, 2004, and until a successor is elected and qualified. A successor shall be
19 elected at the general election in 2004, and such successor shall take office on the first day
20 of January immediately following such election and shall serve until December 31, 2008,
21 and until a successor is elected and qualified. That and all future successors to such judge
22 shall be elected at the general election immediately preceding the expiration of such
23 judge's term of office and shall serve for a term of office of four years and until a
24 successor is elected and qualified."

SECTION 2.

1 Said Act is further amended by striking Section 4 and inserting in lieu thereof a new
2 Section 4 to read as follows:

"SECTION 4.

5 Judges of the State Court of Forsyth County shall have been residents of the State of
6 Georgia for three years next preceding the beginning of their terms of office and shall have
7 been residents of Forsyth County for one year next preceding the beginning of their terms
8 of office. A qualified candidate shall not be less than 25 years of age at the commencement
9 of his or her term of office, shall have been admitted to the practice of law for at least five
10 years, and shall be a member in good standing of the State Bar of Georgia. Judges of the
11 State Court of Forsyth County shall be full-time judges and shall not engage in the private
12 practice of law. Judges of the State Court of Forsyth County may serve as judges of the
13 Juvenile Court of Forsyth County upon approval of the judge of superior court."

SECTION 3.

14 Said Act is further amended by striking Section 10 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof
15 a new Section 10 to read as follows:

"SECTION 10.

17 A judge of the State Court of Forsyth County may request assistance under Code Section
18 15-1-9.1 of the O.C.G.A. in the event the judge is unable to serve or needs assistance for
19 any reason."

SECTION 4.

21 Said Act is further amended by striking Section 13 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof
22 the following:

"SECTION 13.

25 Each judge of the State Court of Forsyth County may appoint an official court reporter who
26 shall report such cases as the court may require. Each reporter shall receive the same fees
27 as allowed for similar service in the Superior Court of Forsyth County which shall be taxed
28 and enforced as in the Superior Court of Forsyth County."

SECTION 5.

29 Said Act is further amended by striking Section 16 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof
30 the following:

1 **"SECTION 16.**

2 Each judge of the State Court of Forsyth County shall receive as compensation an amount
3 equal to 85 percent of the base salary of a judge in the superior courts in the State of
4 Georgia. Such compensation shall be paid in equal monthly installments from the funds
5 of Forsyth County."

6 **SECTION 6.**

7 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2003, except that the Governor is authorized
8 to appoint the additional judge added by Section 1 of this Act prior to such date, but any
9 person so appointed shall not take office until such date.

10 **SECTION 7.**

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