

House Bill 353

By: Representative Purcell of the 147<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating the State Court of Effingham County (formerly known as the City  
2 Court of Springfield), approved July 20, 1908 (Ga. L. 1908, p. 211), as amended, particularly  
3 by an Act approved April 5, 1961 (Ga. L. 1961, p. 2881), and an Act approved April 19,  
4 2000 (Ga. L. 2000, p. 3936), so as to provide that the judge and solicitor of such court shall  
5 devote their full time to the duties of their offices; to provide for qualifications; to provide  
6 for salaries; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 An Act creating the State Court of Effingham County (formerly known as the City Court of  
10 Springfield), approved July 20, 1908 (Ga. L. 1908, p. 211), as amended, particularly by an  
11 Act approved April 5, 1961 (Ga. L. 1961, p. 2881), and an Act approved April 19, 2000 (Ga.  
12 L. 2000, p. 3936), is amended by striking Sections 2 and 2A and inserting in lieu thereof the  
13 following:

14 "SECTION 2.

15 (a) There shall be a judge of the State Court of Effingham County. The judge of the State  
16 Court of Effingham County serving on the effective date of this Act shall continue to serve  
17 for the remainder of his or her term and until his or her successor has been duly elected and  
18 qualified. Thereafter, successors to judges of the State Court of Effingham County whose  
19 terms of office are to expire shall be nominated in a nonpartisan general primary and  
20 elected at the nonpartisan general election immediately preceding such expiration of term,  
21 shall take office the first day of January immediately following such election, and shall  
22 serve for a term of office of four years and until the election and qualification of a  
23 successor.

24 (b) The judge of said court shall have such qualifications and shall be subject to such  
25 restrictions and discipline as provided in Chapter 7 of Title 15 of the Official Code of

1 Georgia. He or she shall be vested with all the power and authority of the judges of the  
2 state courts by Title 7 of Chapter 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

3 (c) The judge shall devote full time to the duties of his office and shall be paid a salary  
4 equal to 85 percent of the yearly base salary set by the General Assembly for judges of the  
5 superior courts. Said salary shall be payable out of the funds of Effingham County at the  
6 same intervals as installments are paid to other county officers."

7 **SECTION 2.**

8 Said Act is further amended by striking Sections 4 and 4A and inserting in lieu thereof the  
9 following:

10 "SECTION 4.

11 (a) There shall be a solicitor of the State Court of Effingham County. The solicitor of the  
12 State Court of Effingham County serving on the effective date of this Act shall continue  
13 to serve for the remainder of his or her term and until his or her successor has been duly  
14 elected and qualified. Those and all future successors to the solicitor of the State Court  
15 of Effingham County whose terms of office are to expire shall be nominated in a  
16 nonpartisan general primary and elected at the nonpartisan general election immediately  
17 preceding such expiration of term, shall take office the first day of January immediately  
18 following such election, and shall serve for a term of office of four years and until the  
19 election and qualification of a successor.

20 (b) The solicitor of the State Court of Effingham County shall be an attorney licensed to  
21 practice law in the State of Georgia.

22 (c) The solicitor shall devote full time to the duties of his or her office and shall be paid  
23 a salary equal to 85 percent of the yearly base salary paid to the judge of the State Court  
24 of Effingham County. Said salary shall be payable out of the funds of Effingham County  
25 at the same intervals as installments are paid to other county officers."

26 **SECTION 3.**

27 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2002.

28 **SECTION 4.**

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