

House Bill 1833 (FLOOR SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representative Holland of the 157th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act entitled "An Act to establish a City Court in the City of Sylvester, County
2 of Worth," such court now known as the State Court of Worth County, approved August 8,
3 1916 (Ga. L. 1916, p. 314), as amended, particularly by an Act approved July 31, 1918 (Ga.
4 L. 1918, p. 339), an Act approved August 7, 1920 (Ga. L. 1920, p. 391), an Act approved
5 March 21, 1933 (Ga. L. 1933, p. 367), an Act approved March 12, 1935 (Ga. L. 1935, p.
6 557), an Act approved March 11, 1953 (Ga. L. 1953, Jan.-Feb. Session, p. 3273), an Act
7 approved March 17, 1967 (Ga. L. 1967, p. 2194), an Act approved March 4, 1969 (Ga. L.
8 1969, p. 2170), an Act approved January 21, 1992 (Ga. L. 1992, p. 6057), and an Act
9 approved April 5, 1993 (Ga. L. 1993, p. 4589), so as to provide for jurisdiction of such court;
10 to provide for the contracting for services; to provide for punishments; to provide for a salary
11 for the judge; to provide for the provision of facilities; to provide for a salary for the solicitor
12 general of said court; to provide that the judge and solicitor general and their staffs shall be
13 eligible for county employee benefits; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting
14 laws; and for other purposes.

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

16 **SECTION 1.**

17 An Act entitled "An Act to establish a City Court in the City of Sylvester, County of Worth,"
18 such court now known as the State Court of Worth County, approved August 8, 1916 (Ga.
19 L. 1916, p. 314), as amended, particularly by an Act approved July 31, 1918 (Ga. L. 1918,
20 p. 339), an Act approved August 7, 1920 (Ga. L. 1920, p. 391), an Act approved March 21,
21 1933 (Ga. L. 1933, p. 367), an Act approved March 12, 1935 (Ga. L. 1935, p. 557), an Act
22 approved March 11, 1953 (Ga. L. 1953, Jan.-Feb. Session, p. 3273), an Act approved March
23 17, 1967 (Ga. L. 1967, p. 2194), an Act approved March 4, 1969 (Ga. L. 1969, p. 2170), an
24 Act approved January 21, 1992 (Ga. L. 1992, p. 6057), and an Act approved April 5, 1993
25 (Ga. L. 1993, p. 4589), is amended by inserting immediately following Section 1 a new
26 section to read as follows:

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1 any judge following December 31, 2004, effective the first day of January following the
2 completion of each such period of service.

3 SECTION 4A.

4 The governing authority of Worth County shall furnish the judge of the State Court of
5 Worth County suitable courtroom space and facilities, a copy of the Official Code of
6 Georgia Annotated and annual supplements to the Code to keep it current, office space,
7 office equipment, computer equipment and programs, supplies, educational expenses and
8 travel expenses, secretarial expenses, and such personnel as may be considered necessary
9 by the judge to the proper functioning of the court. All of the expenditures authorized in
10 this section are declared to be an expense of said court and payable out of the county
11 treasury as such. Such expenses may be paid directly or reimbursed to the judge. In
12 addition to such expenses, the judge shall be entitled to an annual expense allowance,
13 payable in monthly installments, in an amount equal to the expense allowance provided for
14 members of the General Assembly pursuant to Code Section 45-7-4 of the O.C.G.A.

15 SECTION 4B.

16 In the event that the judge of the State Court of Worth County is unable to preside in court
17 for any reason, is disqualified for any reason, or needs assistance for any reason then said
18 judge may avail himself or herself of support as provided by Chapters 1 and 7 of Title 15
19 of the O.C.G.A. or may appoint a judge pro hac vice, who shall meet the same
20 qualifications as said state court judge, to serve in his or her absence."

21 SECTION 3.

22 Said Act is further amended by striking Section 9 and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

23 "SECTION 9.

24 The solicitor-general of said court shall have such qualifications, shall be vested with all
25 of the power and authority, and shall be subject to such restrictions and discipline as
26 provided in Article 3 of Chapter 18 of Title 15 of the O.C.G.A.

27 SECTION 9A.

28 The solicitor-general shall be a part-time solicitor-general within the meaning of Chapter
29 18 of Title 15 of the O.C.G.A., and he or she shall be paid an annual salary equal to 40
30 percent of the salary now or hereafter paid to district attorneys. Said salary, which may
31 also be supplemented by the governing authority of Worth County, shall be payable out of
32 the funds of Worth County at the same intervals as installments are paid to other county
33 employees. The salary of said solicitor-general shall be an expense of said court and

1 payable out of the county treasury as such. This amount of compensation shall be
2 increased by multiplying said amounts by the percentage which equals 5 percent times the
3 number of completed four-year terms of office served by any solicitor-general following
4 December 31, 2004, effective the first day of January following the completion of each
5 such period of service.

6 **SECTION 9B.**

7 The governing authority of Worth County shall furnish the solicitor-general of the State
8 Court of Worth County suitable courtroom space and facilities, a copy of the Official Code
9 of Georgia Annotated and annual supplements to the Code to keep it current, office space,
10 office equipment, computer equipment and programs, materials, supplies, educational
11 expenses and travel expenses, secretarial expenses, and such personnel as may be
12 considered necessary by the judge to the proper functioning of the court. All of the
13 expenditures authorized herein are declared to be an expense of said court and payable out
14 of the county treasury as such. Such expenses may be paid directly or reimbursed to the
15 solicitor. In addition to such expenses, the solicitor shall be entitled to an annual expense
16 allowance, payable in monthly installments, in an amount equal to the expense allowance
17 provided for members of the General Assembly pursuant to Code Section 45-2-4 of the
18 O.C.G.A."

19 **SECTION 4.**

20 Said Act is further amended by inserting immediately following Section 20 a new section to
21 read as follows:

22 "SECTION 20A.

23 The judge of the State Court of Worth County, the solicitor-general of the State Court of
24 Worth County, and their office personnel shall be authorized to participate in any
25 employment benefit package available to any other employees of Worth County upon such
26 terms and conditions as applicable to other employees of Worth County."

27 **SECTION 5.**

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

29 **SECTION 6.**

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