

The House Committee on Judiciary offers the following substitute to  
HB 357:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 10 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 magistrate courts, so as to clarify training requirements for certification of magistrates who  
3 are active members of the State Bar of Georgia; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
4 purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Chapter 10 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to magistrate  
8 courts, is amended in Code Section 15-10-137, relating to training requirements for certified  
9 magistrates, by striking subsection (d) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the  
10 following:

11 "(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, any magistrate who is also an  
12 active member of the State Bar of Georgia shall be certified as a certified magistrate by the  
13 council without being required to complete any training otherwise required by subsection  
14 (b) of this Code section but shall be required to complete the mentor program of subsection  
15 (b.1) of this Code section within 12 months of taking office as magistrate and the annual  
16 training required by subsection (c) of this Code section, commencing with the first full  
17 calendar year following the year in which such a magistrate takes office."

18 **SECTION 2.**

19 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.