

Senate Bill 158

By: Senators Johnson of the 1st, Stephens of the 51st, Price of the 56th, Paul of the 40th, Ladd of the 41st and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 15-12-165 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 the number of peremptory jury challenges, so as to provide that the prosecution and defense
3 shall have an equal number of peremptory jury strikes; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
4 other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Code Section 15-12-165 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the number
8 of peremptory jury challenges, is amended by striking said Code section in its entirety and
9 inserting in lieu thereof the following:

10 "15-12-165.

11 Every person indicted for a crime or offense may peremptorily challenge 12 of the jurors
12 impaneled to try him. The state shall be allowed ~~one-half~~ the same number of peremptory
13 challenges allowed to the accused; provided, however, in any case in which the state
14 announces its intention to seek the death penalty, the person indicted for the crime may
15 peremptorily challenge 20 jurors and the state shall be allowed ~~one-half~~ the same number
16 of peremptory challenges allowed to the accused."

17 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

18 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.