

House Bill 522

By: Representatives Wiles of the 34th, Westmoreland of the 104th, Richardson of the 26th,
Smith of the 19th, Massey of the 86th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to courts, so as to
2 require that judges filling newly created state or superior court judgeships or vacancies in
3 those offices be elected; to change the provisions relating to filling vacancies in the offices
4 of state and superior court judges; to amend Article 14 of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official
5 Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to special elections, so as to allow special elections for
6 superior or state court judicial vacancies or for the creation of a new judgeship; to provide
7 for related matters; to provide for submission for preclearance; to provide for a contingent
8 effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to courts, is amended by
12 designating the existing provisions of Code Section 15-6-2, relating to number of judges, as
13 subsection (a) and adding a new subsection (b) to read as follows:

14 "(b) In the event the number of judges for any circuit increases, the new judge shall be
15 elected in the manner provided by law for the election of judges in the superior courts of
16 this state and by special election as provided in Code Section 21-2-546."

17 **SECTION 2.**

18 Said title is further amended by adding, following Code Section 15-6-4.1, a new Code
19 section to read as follows:

20 "15-6-4.2.

21 In the event of a vacancy in the office of judge of the superior court for any reason except
22 the expiration of the term of office, the vacancy shall be filled as provided in Code Section
23 21-2-546."

1 superior court judgeships and vacancies in the office of state and superior court judges is
2 ratified at the November, 2002, election; otherwise this Act shall stand repealed in its entirety
3 January 1, 2003.

4

SECTION 7.

5 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.