

House Bill 180

By: Representatives Childers of the 13th and Reece of the 11th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 15-6-2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 number of superior court judges for each judicial circuit, so as to provide for an additional
3 judge of the Rome Judicial Circuit; to provide for the initial appointment of such judge; to
4 provide for the election of successors; to provide for terms; to prescribe the powers of said
5 judge; to prescribe the compensation and allowances of said judge; to provide for rules for
6 the transaction of business of the superior court of said circuit; to provide for a presiding
7 judge of said circuit; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
8 purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 SECTION 1.

11 Code Section 15-6-2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the number of
12 superior court judges for each judicial circuit, is amended by striking paragraph (33) in its
13 entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

14 "(33) Rome Circuit 34"

15 SECTION 2.

16 A new judge of the superior courts is added to the Rome Judicial Circuit, increasing the
17 number of judges to four.

18 SECTION 3.

19 Such additional judge shall be appointed initially by the Governor to take office within 30
20 days after the date this Act becomes law, for a term ending December 31, 2002, and until the
21 election and qualification of a successor. Thereafter, such additional judge shall be elected
22 in a manner provided by law for the election of judges of the superior courts of this state at
23 the general election in November, 2002, for a term of four years beginning on January 1,

1 2003, and until the election and qualification of a successor. Future successors shall be
2 elected at the general election each four years thereafter for terms of four years and until the
3 election and qualification of a successor. They shall take office on the first day of January
4 following the date of the election. Such elections shall be held and conducted in a manner
5 provided by law for the election of judges of the superior courts of this state.

6 **SECTION 4.**

7 Said additional judge shall have and may exercise all powers, duties, dignity, jurisdiction,
8 privileges, and immunities of the present judges of the superior courts of this state. Any of
9 the four judges of the superior courts of said circuit may preside over any case therein and
10 perform any official act as judge thereof.

11 **SECTION 5.**

12 The compensation, salary, and contingent expense allowance of said additional judge shall
13 be the same as that of the other judges of the Superior Court of the Rome Judicial Circuit.

14 **SECTION 6.**

15 The four judges, in transacting the business of the superior courts of said circuit and in
16 performing their duties and responsibilities shall share, divide, and allocate the work and
17 duties to be performed by each of them. In the event of disagreement between said judges
18 in respect to the allocation of work and duties, the decision of the senior judge in point of
19 continuous service as superior court judge shall be controlling. In the event that none of said
20 judges shall be senior in point of continuous service as superior court judges, the judge who
21 was first admitted to the State Bar shall be considered the senior judge.

22 **SECTION 7.**

23 The judge who is senior in point of continuous service as superior court judge shall be the
24 presiding judge of said circuit. In the event that none of said judges shall be senior in point
25 of continuous service as superior court judge, the judge who was first admitted to the State
26 Bar shall be presiding judge.

