

House Bill 218

By: Representative Wiles of the 34<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

To amend Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to courts, so as to provide for requests that a hearing, trial, or other proceeding be held before an elected judge of the superior or state court, as the case may be; to provide for an effective date and applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to courts, is amended in Chapter 6, relating to superior courts, by inserting a new Code section to be designated Code Section 15-6-37 to read as follows:

"15-6-37.

At any hearing, trial, or other proceeding, if the individual presiding is not an elected judge of the superior court, any party may request that such hearing, trial, or other proceeding be held before an elected judge of the superior court, and such request shall be granted."

**SECTION 2.**

Said title is further amended in Chapter 7, relating to state courts, by inserting a new Code section to read as follows:

"15-7-51.

Notwithstanding any provision of general or local law to the contrary, at any hearing, trial, or other proceeding, if the individual presiding is not an elected judge of the state court, any party may request that such hearing, trial, or other proceeding be held before an elected judge of the state court, and such request shall be granted."

**SECTION 3.**

This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2001, and shall apply to actions filed on and after that date.

**SECTION 4.**

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.