

Senate Bill 412

By: Senators Brush of the 24th and Cheeks of the 23rd

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 in noncapital felony cases  
3 the prosecution and defense shall have an equal number of peremptory jury strikes; to repeal  
4 conflicting laws; and for 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~~ felony may peremptorily challenge 12 of the  
12 jurors impaneled to try him or her. The state shall be allowed ~~one-half~~ the same number  
13 of peremptory challenges allowed to the accused; provided, however, in any case in which  
14 the state announces its intention to seek the death penalty, the person indicted for the crime  
15 may peremptorily challenge 20 jurors and the state shall be allowed one-half the 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18 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.