

The Senate Judiciary Committee offered the following substitute to SB337:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 14 of Title 9 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to habeas corpus procedure for persons under sentence of a state court of record, so
3 as to provide for a statute of limitations for bringing such actions; to designate where a
4 petition must be filed when the petitioner is being held by federal or other authorities; to
5 provide for service; to provide for the dismissal of a petition under certain circumstances in
6 which the delay in filing such petition prejudiced the respondent's ability to respond to such
7 petition; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting
8 laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

10 Article 2 of Chapter 14 of Title 9 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
11 habeas corpus procedure for persons under sentence of a state court of record, is amended
12 by adding a new subsection (c) to Code Section 9-14-42, relating to grounds for a writ and
13 waiver of objection to jury composition, to read as follows:
14

15 "(c) Any action brought pursuant to this article shall be filed within one year in the case
16 of a misdemeanor, except as otherwise provided in Code Section 40-13-33, or within four
17 years in the case of a felony, other than one challenging a conviction for which a death
18 sentence has been imposed or challenging a sentence of death, from:

19 (1) The judgment of conviction becoming final by the conclusion of direct review or the
20 expiration of the time for seeking such review;

21 (2) The date on which an impediment to filing a petition which was created by state
22 action in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States or of this state is
23 removed, if the petitioner was prevented from filing such state action;

24 (3) The date on which the right asserted was initially recognized by the Supreme Court
25 of the United States or the Supreme Court of Georgia, if that right was newly recognized
26 by said courts and made retroactively applicable to cases on collateral review; or

1 (4) The date on which the facts supporting the claims presented could have been
2 discovered through the exercise of due diligence."

3 **SECTION 2.**

4 Said article is further amended by striking Code Section 9-14-43, relating to jurisdiction of
5 habeas corpus proceedings, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

6 "9-14-43.

7 A petition brought under this article must be filed in the superior court of the county in
8 which the petitioner is being detained. The superior courts of such counties shall have
9 exclusive jurisdiction of habeas corpus actions arising under this article. If the petitioner
10 is not in custody or is being detained under the authority of the United States, any of the
11 several states other than Georgia, or any foreign state, the petition must be filed in the
12 superior court of the county in which the conviction and sentence which is being
13 challenged was imposed."

14 **SECTION 3.**

15 Said article is further amended by adding a new subsection (e) to Code Section 9-14-48 of
16 the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to hearings, to read as follows:

17 "(e) A petition may be dismissed if it appears that the respondent has been prejudiced in
18 its ability to respond to the petition by delay in its filing unless the petitioner shows by a
19 preponderance of the evidence that it is based on grounds of which he or she could not have
20 had knowledge by the exercise of reasonable diligence before the circumstances prejudicial
21 to the respondent occurred."

22 **SECTION 4.**

23 This Act shall be effective upon its approval by the Governor or its becoming law without
24 such approval.

25 **SECTION 5.**

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