

House Bill 1372

By: Representatives Wix of the 33rd, Post 1, Snow of the 1st, Skipper of the 116th, Royal of the 140th, and Parham of the 94th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 9 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to costs and compensation of judges of the probate court, so as to increase the
3 minimum salary for judges of the probate court who also hold and conduct elections or are
4 responsible for conducting elections for members of the General Assembly under any
5 applicable general or local law of this state; to provide for related matters; to provide an
6 effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 3 of Chapter 9 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to costs
10 and compensation of judges of the probate court, is amended by adding a new Code Section
11 15-9-63.2 to read as follows:

12 "15-9-63.2.

13 (a) Beginning January 1, 2005, the amount of minimum salary provided in Code Section
14 15-9-63 for the judge of the probate court of any county presently on a salary who holds
15 and conducts elections or is responsible for conducting elections for members of the
16 General Assembly under any applicable general or local law of this state shall be increased
17 by an annual amount of \$10,316.20; provided, however, that compensation for a probate
18 judge shall not be reduced during his or her term of office.

19 (b) On and after July 1, 2004, whenever the employees in the classified service of the state
20 merit system receive a cost-of-living increase or general performance based increase of a
21 certain percentage or a certain amount, the amount provided in subsection (a) of this Code
22 section shall be increased by the same percentage or same amount applicable to such state
23 employees. If the cost-of-living increase or general performance based increase received
24 by state employees is in different percentages or different amounts as to certain categories
25 of employees, the amount provided in subsection (a) of this Code section shall be increased
26 by a percentage or an amount not to exceed the average percentage or average amount of

1 the general increase in salary granted to the state employees. The Office of Planning and
 2 Budget shall calculate the average percentage increase or average amount increase when
 3 necessary. The periodic changes in the amount provided in subsection (a) of this Code
 4 section, as authorized by this subsection, shall become effective on the first day of January
 5 following the date that the cost-of-living increases or general performance based increases
 6 received by state employees become effective; provided, however, that if such increases
 7 received by state employees become effective on January 1, such periodic changes in the
 8 amount provided in subsection (a) of this Code section, as authorized by this subsection,
 9 shall become effective on the same date that the cost-of-living increases or general
 10 performance based increases received by state employees become effective.

11 (c) On and after January 1, 2005, the amounts provided in subsections (a) and (b) of this
 12 Code section shall be increased by multiplying said amounts by the percentage which
 13 equals 5 percent times the number of completed four-year terms of office served by any
 14 probate judge who holds and conducts elections or is responsible for conducting elections
 15 for members of the General Assembly under any applicable general or local law of this
 16 state where such terms have been completed after December 31, 2004, effective the first
 17 day of January following the completion of each such period of service."

18 SECTION 2.

19 Said article is further amended by striking Code Section 15-9-64, relating to supplementation
 20 of minimum salaries of judges of the probate court, and inserting in lieu thereof a new Code
 21 Section 15-9-64 to read as follows:

22 "15-9-64.

23 ~~The amount of minimum salary provided in Code Section 15-9-63 for the judges of the~~
 24 ~~probate courts of any county presently on a salary who also hold and conduct elections or~~
 25 ~~are responsible for conducting elections for members of the General Assembly under any~~
 26 ~~applicable general or local law of this state shall be increased by \$286.73 per month. The~~
 27 amount of the minimum salary provided in Code Section 15-9-63 for the judges of the
 28 probate courts on a salary who are responsible for traffic cases under any general or local
 29 law of this state shall also be increased by \$358.34 per month."

30 SECTION 3.

31 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2005.

32 SECTION 4.

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