

Senate Bill 235

By: Senators Hamrick of the 30th and Reed of the 35th

**AS PASSED SENATE**

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT**

1 To amend an Act to create a new judicial circuit for the State of Georgia, to be known as the  
2 Douglas Judicial Circuit, to be composed of the County of Douglas, approved March 20,  
3 1980 (Ga. L. 1980, p. 563), as amended, so as to provide for the employment by the district  
4 attorney with the approval of the board of commissioners of certain personnel; to provide that  
5 investigators employed by the district attorney shall have the powers of peace officers and  
6 shall be qualified as peace officers; to provide for related matters; to provide for applicability  
7 and automatic termination of such provision; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
8 purposes.

9 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

**SECTION 1.**

10 An Act to create a new judicial circuit for the State of Georgia, to be known as the Douglas  
11 Judicial Circuit, to be composed of the County of Douglas, approved March 20, 1980  
12 (Ga. L. 1980, p. 563), as amended, is amended by designating the present matter contained  
13 in Section 3 as subsection (a) and adding a new subsection (b) to Section 3 to read as follows:

14 "(b)(1) The district attorney may employ such additional assistant district attorneys,  
15 deputy district attorneys, or other attorneys, investigators, paraprofessionals, clerical  
16 assistants, victim and witness assistance personnel, and other employees or independent  
17 contractors as may be authorized by the board of commissioners. Such personnel shall  
18 be compensated by the county in a manner and amount fixed by the district attorney with  
19 the approval of the board of commissioners.  
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21 (2) Any investigator appointed pursuant to this subsection or Code Section 15-18-14.1  
22 of the O.C.G.A. shall meet the qualifications for certification as a peace officer as  
23 provided in Chapter 8 of Title 35 of the O.C.G.A., the 'Georgia Peace Officer Standards  
24 and Training Act.' Such investigators shall exercise all powers of a peace officer  
25 including the power to make arrests and to apply for, execute, and return any warrant,  
26 rule, order, or process within Douglas County.

1 (3) This subsection shall apply from the effective date of this subsection until  
2 December 31, 2011, after which time this subsection shall be of no further force or  
3 effect."

4 **SECTION 2.**

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