

House Bill 1415

By: Representatives Ralston of the 7th, Carter of the 175th, Maddox of the 172nd, Black of the 174th, and Bearden of the 68th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 12 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 juries, so as to provide protection of certain juror information under certain circumstances;
3 to change certain provisions relating to juror questionnaires; to change certain provisions
4 relating to the examination of jurors; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
5 laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 12 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to juries, is
9 amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 15-12-11, relating to appointment of
10 court personnel in certain counties and juror questionnaires, as follows:

11 "(b) All prospective jurors in all counties may be required to answer written
12 questionnaires, as may be determined and submitted by the judges of such counties,
13 concerning their qualifications as jurors. In propounding the questions, the judges may
14 consider the suggestions of counsel. In the questionnaire and during voir dire examination,
15 judges should ensure that the privacy of prospective jurors is reasonably protected and that
16 the questioning by counsel is consistent with the purpose of the voir dire process. The
17 judges shall keep all jurors' home telephone numbers and addresses confidential unless
18 good cause is shown to the court which would require such disclosure. If the court
19 discloses such information, the court may restrict the use of such information."

20 **SECTION 2.**

21 Said chapter is further amended by revising paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of Code Section
22 15-12-23, relating to clerk of board of jury commissioners, appointment of court personnel
23 in certain counties, and juror questionnaires, as follows:

24 "(2) All prospective jurors in such counties shall be required to answer questionnaires as
25 may be determined and submitted by said chief judge of such counties concerning their

1 qualifications as jurors. The judge shall keep all jurors' home telephone numbers and
2 addresses confidential unless good cause is shown to the court which would require such
3 disclosure. If the court discloses such information, the court may restrict the use of such
4 information."

5 SECTION 3.

6 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 15-12-133, relating to the right to
7 individual examination of panel and matters of inquiry, as follows:

8 "15-12-133.

9 In all civil cases the parties thereto shall have the right to an individual examination of the
10 panel of jurors from which the jury is to be selected, without interposing any challenge.

11 In all criminal cases both the state and the defendant shall have the right to an individual
12 examination of each juror from which the jury is to be selected prior to interposing a
13 challenge. The examination shall be conducted after the administration of a preliminary
14 oath to the panel or in criminal cases after the usual voir dire questions have been put by
15 the court. In the examination, the counsel for either party shall have the right to inquire of
16 the individual jurors examined touching any matter or thing which would illustrate any
17 interest of the juror in the case, including any opinion as to which party ought to prevail,
18 the relationship or acquaintance of the juror with the parties or counsel therefor, any fact
19 or circumstance indicating any inclination, leaning, or bias which the juror might have
20 respecting the subject matter of the action or the counsel or parties thereto, and the
21 religious, social, and fraternal connections of the juror. The court shall keep all jurors'
22 home telephone numbers and addresses confidential unless good cause is shown to the
23 court which would require such disclosure. If the court discloses such information, the
24 court may restrict the use of such information."

25 SECTION 4.

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