

House Bill 1414 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Hembree of the 67th, Brooks of the 63rd, Bearden of the 68th, and Bruce of the 64th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating the State Court of Douglas County, approved April 1, 1999 (Ga.
2 L. 1999, p. 3606), so as to provide an additional judge for the State Court of Douglas County;
3 to provide for the appointment of the initial additional judge and the election of successors;
4 to provide for terms of office of said additional judge and successors to such judge; to
5 provide for powers and privileges of said additional judge; to provide for the compensation
6 and expenses of said additional judge; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
7 laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 An Act creating the State Court of Douglas County, approved April 1, 1999 (Ga. L. 1999,
11 p. 3606), is amended by striking Section 11 in its entirety and inserting a new Section 11 to
12 read as follows:

13 "SECTION 11.

14 (a) Until July 1, 2009 there shall be one judge of the State Court of Douglas County who
15 shall be elected by the qualified voters of Douglas County at the state-wide general election
16 in November, 2002, and quadrennially thereafter, shall take office the first day of January
17 immediately following such election, and shall serve for a term of office of four years and
18 until the election and qualification of a successor, as provided by Chapter 7 of Title 15 and
19 by Title 21 of the O.C.G.A.; provided, however, that the first judge shall be appointed by
20 the Governor for a term of office of 18 months beginning July 1, 2001, and until the
21 election and qualification of a successor.

22 (b) Effective July 1, 2009 there shall be two judges of the State Court of Douglas County.
23 The second judge added effective July 1, 2009 shall be elected by the qualified voters of
24 Douglas County at the state-wide general election in November, 2010, and quadrennially
25 thereafter, shall take office the first day of January immediately following such election,

1 and shall serve for a term of office of four years and until the election and qualification of
2 a successor, as provided by Chapter 7 of Title 15 and by Title 21 of the O.C.G.A.;
3 provided, however, that said judge shall be appointed by the Governor for a term of office
4 of 18 months beginning July 1, 2009, and ending December 31, 2010, and until the election
5 and qualification of a successor.

6 (c) The judges of said court shall have such qualifications and shall be subject to such
7 restrictions and discipline as provided in Chapter 7 of Title 15 of the O.C.G.A. They shall
8 be vested with all the power and authority of the judges of the state courts by Chapter 7 of
9 Title 15 of the O.C.G.A.

10 (d) The judges shall be full-time judges and shall be paid a salary equal to 85 percent of
11 the base state paid salary now or hereafter paid to the judges of the Superior Court of
12 Douglas County. Said salary shall be payable out of the funds of Douglas County at the
13 same intervals as installments are paid to other county officers.

14 (e) The judge of the State Court of Douglas County who has served the longest period of
15 time in office as judge of said court shall be the chief judge of the State Court of Douglas
16 County."

17 **SECTION 2.**

18 This Act shall become effective July 1, 2008.

19 **SECTION 3.**

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