

House Bill 478

By: Representatives Powell of the 171<sup>st</sup>, Lindsey of the 54<sup>th</sup>, Willard of the 49<sup>th</sup>, Weldon of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Crawford of the 16<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 32 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to general provisions for municipal courts, so as to require municipal court judges  
3 to be attorneys; to provide for exceptions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting  
4 laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Article 1 of Chapter 32 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
8 general provisions for municipal courts, is amended by adding a new Code section to read  
9 as follows:

10 "36-32-1.1.

11 Municipal court judges shall be licensed to practice law in the State of Georgia and a  
12 member in good standing of the State Bar of Georgia; provided, however, that any judge  
13 -serving on June 30, 2009, who does not meet the qualifications required by this Code  
14 section may retain his or her judgeship in each particular municipality in which he or she  
15 then serves for so long as such judge continuously holds such judgeship in that particular  
16 municipality. The provisions of this Code section shall expressly supersede any conflicting  
17 local law of this state."

18 **SECTION 2.**

19 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.