

Senate Bill 351

By: Senator Crosby of the 13th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 32 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 municipal courts, so as to require the same training for all judges of courts exercising  
3 municipal court jurisdiction; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and  
4 for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Chapter 32 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to municipal  
8 courts, is amended by revising Code Section 36-32-11, relating to required training for  
9 judges, as follows:

10 "36-32-11.

11 (a) ~~All~~ Subject to the rules and regulations established by the Georgia Municipal Courts  
12 Training Council, all judges of the municipal courts, and all judges of courts exercising  
13 municipal court jurisdiction, shall periodically satisfactorily complete a training course as  
14 provided in Article 2 of this chapter.

15 (b) The Georgia Municipal Courts Training Council shall keep records of training  
16 completed by municipal judges and judges of courts exercising municipal court  
17 jurisdiction.

18 (c) ~~If any municipal judge, or any judge of a court exercising municipal court jurisdiction,~~  
19 does not satisfactorily complete the required training in any year, the Georgia Municipal  
20 Courts Training Council shall promptly notify the Judicial Qualifications Commission,  
21 which shall remove the ~~municipal~~ judge from office unless the Judicial Qualifications  
22 Commission finds that the failure was caused by facts beyond the control of the ~~municipal~~  
23 judge.

24 (d) The reasonable costs and expenses of such training shall be paid by the governing  
25 authority ~~of the municipality from municipal~~ where the judge presides using the governing  
26 authority's funds."

27 **SECTION 2.**

28 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 36-32-27, relating to mandatory  
29 training of municipal court judges, as follows:

30 "36-32-27.

31 (a) Any person who becomes a municipal judge on or after January 1, 1991, shall  
32 satisfactorily complete 20 hours of training in the performance of his or her duties, ~~prior~~  
33 ~~to December 31, 1991,~~ and shall attend the first scheduled training session held after the  
34 date of his or her election or appointment in order to become certified under this article.  
35 Any person serving as a municipal judge prior to January 1, 1991, shall be exempt from  
36 completing these 20 hours of training.

37 (b) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this Code section, any person who becomes a  
38 judge of a court exercising municipal court jurisdiction on or after July 1, 2012, who is not  
39 subject to subsection (a) of this Code section, shall satisfactorily complete 20 hours of  
40 training in the performance of his or her duties, prior to December 31, 2012, and shall  
41 attend the first scheduled training session held after the date of his or her election or  
42 appointment in order to become certified under this article. Any person serving as a judge  
43 of a court exercising municipal court jurisdiction prior to July 1, 2012, who is not subject  
44 to subsection (a) of this Code section, shall be exempt from completing these 20 hours of  
45 training.

46 ~~(b)~~(c) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this Code section, in order to maintain the  
47 status of a certified municipal judge or a certified judge of a court exercising municipal  
48 court jurisdiction, each person certified as such he or she shall complete 12 hours of  
49 additional training per annum during each calendar year after the year of his or her initial  
50 certification in which he or she serves as municipal judge or as judge of a court exercising  
51 municipal court jurisdiction.

52 (d) This Code section shall not apply to any magistrate judge or any judge of a court of  
53 record who presides in a court exercising municipal court jurisdiction."

54 **SECTION 3.**

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