

Senate Bill 351

By: Senator Crosby of the 13th

**AS PASSED SENATE**

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 **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 judges of the municipal courts, and all judges of courts exercising municipal court  
12 jurisdiction, shall periodically satisfactorily complete a training course as provided in  
13 Article 2 of this chapter.

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

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

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

26 **SECTION 2.**

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

29 "36-32-27.

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

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

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

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

53 **SECTION 3.**

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