

House Bill 161

By: Representatives Atwood of the 179<sup>th</sup>, Willard of the 51<sup>st</sup>, Fleming of the 121<sup>st</sup>, Hightower of the 68<sup>th</sup>, Pak of the 108<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 1 of Article 5 of Chapter 12 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to trial juries in general, so as to change provisions relating to the oath  
3 of bailiffs; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

6 Part 1 of Article 5 of Chapter 12 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
7 relating to trial juries in general, is amended by revising Code Section 15-11-140, relating  
8 to the oath of bailiffs, as follows:

9 "15-12-140.

10 The following oath shall be administered to all bailiffs on duty in ~~the superior courts~~ any  
11 court in this state conducting a jury trial:

12 'You shall take all juries committed to your charge ~~during the present term~~ to the jury  
13 room or some other private and convenient place ~~where you shall keep them without meat~~  
14 ~~or drink (water excepted), unless otherwise~~ designated by the court and you shall not  
15 allow the jurors to receive any books, papers, nourishment, or hydration other than water,  
16 or to use any electronic communication device except as directed and approved by the  
17 court. You shall make no communication with ~~them yourself~~ the jurors nor permit  
18 anyone to communicate with ~~them~~, except by leave of the jurors except as specifically  
19 authorized by the court. You shall discharge all other duties which may devolve upon  
20 you as bailiff to the best of your skill and power. So help you God.'

21 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

22 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.