

House Bill 725

By: Representative Sims of the 169th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 1 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 general provisions regarding courts, so as to repeal a population provision; to provide for
3 judicial assistance from other courts; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws;
4 and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Chapter 1 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general
8 provisions regarding courts, is amended by repealing paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of Code
9 Section 15-1-9.1, relating to requesting judicial assistance from other courts, and enacting
10 a new paragraph to read as follows:

11 "(2) If assistance is needed from a judge from the same county, the chief judge of any
12 court within such county of this state may make a written request for assistance to the
13 chief judge of any other court within such county, a senior judge of the superior court, a
14 retired judge, or a judge emeritus of any court within the county. The request by the chief
15 judge may be made if one of the following circumstances arises:

16 (A) A judge of the requesting court is disqualified for any cause from presiding in any
17 matter pending before the court;

18 (B) A judge of the requesting court is unable to preside because of disability, illness,
19 or absence;

20 (C) A judge of the requesting court is unable to preside because such judge is
21 performing ordered military duty as such term is defined in Code Section 38-2-279;

22 (D) A majority of the judges of the requesting court determines that the business of the
23 court requires the temporary assistance of an additional judge or additional judges; or

24 (E) A majority of the judges of the requesting court determines that the business of the
25 court requires the permanent assistance of an additional judge or additional judges. If
26 the requesting court is a state or superior court, the assisting judge or assisting judges

27 may hear and decide matters otherwise in the exclusive jurisdiction of the state or
28 superior court without regard to time, type of case, or limitations contained in the rules
29 of such state or superior court."

30 **SECTION 2.**

31 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2014.

32 **SECTION 3.**

33 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.