

House Bill 986 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Black of the 174th, Carter of the 175th, Shaw of the 176th, and Sharper of the 177th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act establishing the State Court of Lowndes County, approved December 11,
2 1901 (Ga. L. 1901, p. 176), as amended, particularly by an Act approved March 21, 1968
3 (Ga. L. 1968, p. 2332) and an Act approved April 4, 1991 (Ga. L. 1991, p. 3551), so as to
4 provide an additional judge for said court; to provide for the initial appointment of such
5 additional judge by the Governor; to provide for the election and terms of office for the
6 judges of said court; to provide for a chief judge of said court; to provide for the
7 compensation of the judges of said court; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
8 laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 An Act establishing the State Court of Lowndes County, approved December 11, 1901 (Ga.
12 L. 1901, p. 176), as amended, particularly by an Act approved March 21, 1968 (Ga. L. 1968,
13 p. 2332) and an Act approved April 4, 1991 (Ga. L. 1991, p. 3551), is amended by revising
14 Section 4 as follows:

15 "SECTION 4.

16 There shall be two judges of the State Court of Lowndes County. The judge of the State
17 Court of Lowndes County in office on January 1, 2014, shall continue to serve the term of
18 office to which said judge was elected until the election and qualification of a successor as
19 provided by law. The additional judge as provided by this Act shall be appointed by the
20 Governor for a term beginning July 1, 2014, and expiring December 31, 2016, and until a
21 successor is elected and qualified. A successor to the additional judge shall be elected in
22 a manner provided by Code Section 21-2-138 of the O.C.G.A. for the election of judges
23 of the state courts of this state in 2016 for a term of four years beginning on January 1,
24 2017, and until the election and qualification of a successor. Future successors shall be
25 elected each four years thereafter as provided by Code Section 21-2-138 of the O.C.G.A.

26 for terms of four years and until the election and qualification of a successor. They shall
27 take office on the first day of January following the date of the election. Such elections
28 shall be held and conducted in a manner provided by law for the election of judges of the
29 state courts of this state. The judge of the State Court of Lowndes County having the
30 longest time in service as a judge of said court shall be the chief judge of the State Court
31 of Lowndes County with such powers and responsibilities as provided by law."

32 **SECTION 2.**

33 Said Act is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Section 6 as follows:

34 "(a)(1) The judges of the State Court of Lowndes County shall be full-time judges within
35 the meaning of Article 2 of Chapter 7 of Title 15 of the O.C.G.A.

36 (2) The judges of the State Court of Lowndes County shall receive as salary
37 compensation an amount equal to the base salary paid to a judge in the superior courts by
38 the state. All of such compensation shall be paid from the funds of Lowndes County and
39 in like intervals and installments as salaries are paid to employees of Lowndes County.

40 In addition to the salary compensation provided for in this section, the governing
41 authority of Lowndes County shall pay on behalf of each judge of the State Court of
42 Lowndes County a sum equal to one-half of the employee contribution required for
43 judges by the Georgia Judicial Retirement System created by Chapter 23 of Title 47 of
44 the O.C.G.A. In addition, the governing authority of Lowndes County shall pay on
45 behalf of each judge a sum equal to one-half of the employee contribution required for
46 judges by the Georgia Judicial Retirement System created by Chapter 23 of Title 47 of
47 the O.C.G.A. and deduct such sum from each judge's salary compensation."

48 **SECTION 3.**

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