

Senate Bill 331

By: Senators Harper of the 7th and Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd

AS PASSED SENATE

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT**

To amend Code Section 15-6-2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the number of superior court judges for each judicial circuit, so as to provide for an additional judge of the Waycross Judicial Circuit; to provide for the initial appointment of such judge by the Governor; to provide for the election and term of office of such judge; to provide for powers, duties, and responsibilities of such judge and the judges of such circuit; to provide for effective dates; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Code Section 15-6-2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the number of superior court judges for each judicial circuit, is amended by revising paragraph (41) as follows:

"(41) Waycross Circuit 3 4"

SECTION 2.

A new judge of the superior court is added to the Waycross Judicial Circuit, thereby increasing to four the number of judges of such circuit.

SECTION 3.

The initial judge appointed as provided by this Act shall be appointed by the Governor for a term beginning July 1, 2014, and expiring December 31, 2016, and until a successor is elected and qualified. A successor to the initial judge shall be elected in a manner provided by Code Section 21-2-138 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated for the election of judges of the superior courts of this state in 2016 for a term of four years beginning on January 1, 2017, and until the election and qualification of a successor. Future successors shall be elected each four years thereafter as provided by Code Section 21-2-138 of the

25 Official Code of Georgia Annotated for terms of four years and until the election and
26 qualification of a successor. They shall take office on the first day of January following the
27 date of the election. Such elections shall be held and conducted in a manner provided by law
28 for the election of judges of the superior courts of this state.

29 **SECTION 4.**

30 Such additional judge shall have and may exercise all powers, duties, dignity, jurisdiction,
31 privileges, and immunities of the present judges of the superior courts of this state. Any of
32 the judges of the superior court of such circuit may preside over any case therein and perform
33 any official act as judge thereof.

34 **SECTION 5.**

35 (a) For purposes of making the initial appointment of the judge to fill the superior court
36 judgeship created by this Act, this Act shall become effective upon its approval by the
37 Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

38 (b) For all other purposes, this Act shall become effective on July 1, 2014.

39 **SECTION 6.**

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