

House Bill 986 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

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

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.