

House Bill 5 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Caldwell of the 131<sup>st</sup>, Powell of the 171<sup>st</sup>, Willard of the 51<sup>st</sup>, and Oliver of the 82<sup>nd</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to courts, so as to  
2 change provisions relating to the compensation for certain judicial officials; to increase the  
3 number of days for travel to the judicial building in Atlanta for which a Supreme Court  
4 Justice or Court of Appeals Judge can receive a daily expense allowance; to change  
5 provisions relating to compensation of juvenile court judges; to correct a cross-reference; to  
6 provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date and a contingent effective date;  
7 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **PART I**  
10 **SECTION 1-1.**

11 Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to courts, is amended by revising  
12 paragraph (3) of subsection (b) of Code Section 15-2-3, relating to oath of Supreme Court  
13 Justices and compensation, as follows:

14 "(3) If a Justice resides 50 miles or more from the judicial building in Atlanta, such  
15 Justice shall also receive the same daily expense allowance as members of the General  
16 Assembly receive, as set forth in Code Section 28-1-8, for not more than 35 days during  
17 each term of court. Such days shall be utilized only when official court business is being  
18 conducted. All allowances provided for in this paragraph shall be paid upon the  
19 submission of proper vouchers."

20 **SECTION 1-2.**

21 Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (3) of subsection (b) of Code Section  
22 15-3-5, relating to oath of Court of Appeals Judges and compensation, as follows:

23 "(3) If a Judge resides 50 miles or more from the judicial building in Atlanta, such Judge  
24 shall also receive the same daily expense allowance as members of the General Assembly

25 receive, as set forth in Code Section 28-1-8, for not more than 35 days during each term  
26 of court. Such days shall be utilized only when official court business is being  
27 conducted. All allowances provided for in this paragraph shall be paid upon the  
28 submission of proper vouchers."

29 **PART II**  
30 **SECTION 2-1.**

31 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (c) of Code Section 15-11-52, relating  
32 to terms and compensation of judges, as follows:

33 "(c) Out of funds appropriated to the judicial branch of government, the state shall  
34 contribute toward the salary of the judges on a per circuit basis in the following amounts:

35 (1) Each circuit with one or more juvenile court judges who are not superior court judges  
36 assuming the duties of juvenile court judges shall receive a state base grant of ~~\$85,000.00~~  
37 \$100,000.00;

38 (2) In addition to ~~this base amount~~ the amount set forth in paragraph (1) of this  
39 subsection, each circuit which has more than four superior court judges shall be eligible  
40 for additional state grants. ~~For each superior court judge who exceeds the base of four~~  
41 ~~judges, the circuit shall be eligible for an additional grant in an amount equal to~~  
42 ~~one-fourth of the base amount of the state grant~~ in the amount of \$25,000.00 per superior  
43 court judgeship exceeding four judges in such circuit;

44 (3) In circuits where the superior court judges elect to use the state grant for one or more  
45 part-time judges, the amount of the state grant shall be as follows; provided, however,  
46 that such grant shall not exceed the amount the circuit is eligible to receive under  
47 paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection:

48 (A) For each part-time judge who works one day  
49 weekly ..... ~~\$17,000.00~~ \$20,000.00

50 (B) For each part-time judge who works two days  
51 weekly ..... ~~34,000.00~~ 40,000.00

52 (C) For each part-time judge who works three  
53 days weekly ..... ~~51,000.00~~ 60,000.00

54 (D) For each part-time judge who works four  
55 days weekly ..... ~~68,000.00;~~ 80,000.00; and

56 ~~provided, however, that a grant for one or more part-time judges shall not exceed the~~  
57 ~~amount the circuit is eligible for in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) of this~~  
58 ~~subsection; and~~

59 (4) All state grants provided by this subsection shall be spent solely on salaries for  
60 juvenile court judges and shall not be used for any other purposes."

61 **SECTION 2-2.**

62 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (c) of Code Section 15-11-54, relating  
63 to the administration and expenses of juvenile courts, as follows:

64 "(c) Except for state ~~base~~ grants provided by Code Section 15-11-52, all expenditures of  
65 the court are declared to be an expense of the court and payable out of the county treasury  
66 with the approval of the governing authority or governing authorities of the county or  
67 counties for which the juvenile court judge is appointed."

68 **PART III**

69 **SECTION 3-1.**

70 (a) This part and Part I of this Act shall become effective on July 1, 2017.

71 (b) Part II of this Act shall become effective on July 1, 2017, only if funds are appropriated  
72 for purposes of Part II of this Act in an appropriations Act enacted at the 2017 regular session  
73 of the General Assembly. If funds are not so appropriated, then Part II of this Act shall not  
74 become effective and shall stand repealed on July 1, 2017.

75 **SECTION 3-2.**

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