

House Bill 829

By: Representatives Burchett of the 176<sup>th</sup>, Gunter of the 8<sup>th</sup>, Leverett of the 33<sup>rd</sup>, and Kelley of the 16<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 1 of Article 5 of Chapter 12 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to general provisions regarding trial juries, so as to revise the criteria for  
3 demand of jury panels from which to select juries in civil actions in the state courts; to  
4 provide for related matters; to provide for applicability; to provide for an effective date; to  
5 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Part 1 of Article 5 of Chapter 12 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
9 relating to general provisions regarding trial juries, is amended by revising subsection (a) of  
10 Code Section 15-12-122, relating to demand of jury panels from which to select jury in civil  
11 actions in the state courts and the superior courts, as follows:

12 "(a)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this ~~Code section~~ subsection, in all civil  
13 actions in the state courts, each party may demand a full panel of 12 competent and  
14 impartial jurors from which to select a jury. When one or more of the regular panel of  
15 trial jurors is absent or for any reason disqualified, the judge, at the request of counsel for  
16 either party, shall cause the panel to be filled by additional competent and impartial jurors

17 to the number of 12 before requiring the parties or their counsel to strike a jury. In all  
18 cases the parties or their attorneys may strike alternately, with the plaintiff exercising the  
19 first strike, until a jury of six persons is impaneled to try the case.

20 (2) In all civil actions in the state courts in which the claim for damages is \$1 million or  
21 greater than \$25,000.00, either party may demand in writing prior to the commencement  
22 of the trial term that the case be tried by a jury of 12. If such a demand is made, the judge  
23 shall follow the procedures for superior courts of subsection (b) of this Code section."

24 **SECTION 2.**

25 (a) This Act shall apply to all civil actions that may be brought or are pending in state courts  
26 on or after the effective of this Act.

27 (b) This Act shall apply to all causes of action accruing on or after the effective date of this  
28 Act.

29 **SECTION 3.**

30 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
31 without such approval.

32 **SECTION 4.**

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