

Senate Bill 508

By: Senators Dixon of the 45th, Albers of the 56th, Strickland of the 17th, Tillery of the 19th, Robertson of the 29th and others

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 provide for duties of the Administrative Office of the Courts relative to accessibility of
3 certain personal information of state and federal judges, justices, and spouses thereof; to
4 provide for establishment and maintenance of a data base, training, and sharing of
5 information for purposes of restricting public access to certain personal information of state
6 and federal judges, justices, and spouses thereof; to prohibit the display or sharing of certain
7 personal information in certain instances; to provide for an action and remedy; to require the
8 submission of certain information to The Council of Superior Court Judges of Georgia, The
9 Council of State Court Judges of Georgia, The Council of Probate Court Judges of Georgia,
10 and the Council of Juvenile Court Judges; to provide for submission of information by such
11 councils to the Administration Office of the Courts; to provide for definitions; to amend
12 Code Section 36-32-40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to creation of
13 Council of Municipal Court Judges, membership and organization, purpose, expenses,
14 contracts, assistance to council, and members not ineligible to hold office of judge, so as to
15 require submission of certain information to the Council of Magistrate Court Judges; to
16 provide for submission of information by such council to the Administration Office of the
17 Courts; to provide for and revise definitions; to provide for related matters; to provide for an
18 effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

20 SECTION 1.

21 Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to courts, is amended in
22 Chapter 5, relating to administration of courts of record generally, by adding a new article
23 to read as follows:

24 "ARTICLE 8

25 15-5-110.

26 As used in this article, the term:

27 (1) 'Personally identifiable information' means any phone number or address
28 affirmatively identified by a protected person for inclusion in the data base established
29 and maintained pursuant to Code Section 15-5-111.

30 (2) 'Protected person' means any:

31 (A) Elected or appointed judge or justice of this state and his or her spouse;

32 (B) Elected or appointed judge of any county or municipality of this state and his or
33 her spouse; and

34 (C) Appointed judge or justice of the United States and his or her spouse.

35 (3) 'Publicly available content' means any written or electronic document or record that
36 provides information or that serves as a document or record maintained, controlled, or in
37 the possession of a state or local government entity that may be obtained by any person
38 from the internet or from such state or local government agency upon request whether
39 free of charge or for a fee.

40 (4) 'Public posting or display' means to communicate information or otherwise make
41 information available to the general public.

42 (5) 'State or local government entity' means any:

- 43 (A) Agency of the executive branch of this state; or
44 (B) Any local governing authority of a county or municipality of this state.

45 15-5-111.

46 The Administrative Office of the Courts shall:

- 47 (1) Establish a method for obtaining information from the Administrative Office of the
48 United States Courts as necessary for purposes of this article;
49 (2) Establish and maintain a data base of protected persons and personally identifiable
50 information;
51 (3) Develop and manage a process to regularly identify each state or local government
52 entity that possesses personally identifiable information;
53 (4) Establish a procedure for protected persons to submit phone numbers and addresses
54 for inclusion in a data base as personally identifiable information to be restricted from
55 publicly available content and public posting or display; and
56 (5) Coordinate statewide training and information sharing related to security procedure
57 and practices relative to the judicial branch of government.

58 15-5-112.

- 59 (a) Within 30 days of receipt of written notice that a judge or justice of the United States,
60 this state, or any county or municipality of this state has been elected or appointed, the
61 Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide written notice to each state or local
62 government entity determined by the Administrative Office of the Courts to possess
63 personally identifiable information that directs such entity to restrict access to such
64 personally identifiable information pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section.
65 (b) Within 30 days of receipt of written notice that a judge or justice of the United States,
66 this state, or any county or municipality of this state has resigned, retired, or been removed,
67 the Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide written notice to each state or local

68 government entity determined by the Administrative Office of the Courts to possess
69 personally identifiable information that informs such entity that the restriction required
70 pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section is no longer applicable.

71 (c) Notwithstanding Article 4 of Chapter 18 of Title 50 to the contrary, within 30 days of
72 receipt of written notice from the Administrative Office of the Courts pursuant to
73 subsection (a) of this Code section, a state or local government entity that has received such
74 notice shall restrict personally identifiable information from publicly available content and
75 public posting or display unless such entity has:

76 (1) Obtained written consent from the protected person that his or her phone number and
77 address may be made available to the general public; or

78 (2) Received notice pursuant to subsection (b) of this Code section that a judge or justice
79 of the United States, this state, or any county or municipality thereof has resigned, retired,
80 or been removed.

81 (d) Any protected person may bring an action in a court of competent jurisdiction against
82 any officer or employee of the state or local government entity in his or her individual
83 capacity for failure to comply with subsection (c) of this Code section. Any relief granted
84 by such action shall be limited to injunctive relief."

85 **SECTION 2.**

86 Said title is further amended in Code Section 15-6-34, relating to creation of The Council of
87 Superior Court Judges of Georgia, composition, purpose, expenses, and acceptance and
88 publication of uniform standards, by adding new subsections to read as follows:

89 "(e) Any person elected or appointed as a superior court judge shall provide written
90 notification to The Council of Superior Court Judges of Georgia of such within 30 days of
91 the date of the election or appointment. Any state court judge who resigns, retires, or is
92 removed from office shall provide written notification to The Council of Superior Court

93 Judges of Georgia of such within 30 days of the date on which he or she resigns, retires,
94 or is removed from office.
95 (f) The Council of Superior Court Judges of Georgia shall notify the Administrative Office
96 of the Courts of any notification received pursuant to subsection (e) of this Code section
97 within 30 days of receipt of such notification."

98 **SECTION 3.**

99 Said title is further amended in Code Section 15-7-26, relating to The Council of State Court
100 Judges of Georgia, by adding new subsections to read as follows:

101 "(e) Any person elected or appointed as a state court judge shall provide written
102 notification to The Council of State Court Judges of Georgia of such within 30 days of the
103 date of the election or appointment. Any state court judge who resigns, retires, or is
104 removed from office shall provide written notification to The Council of State Court Judges
105 of Georgia of such within 30 days of the date on which he or she resigns, retires, or is
106 removed from office.

107 (f) The Council of State Court Judges of Georgia shall notify the Administrative Office
108 of the Courts of any notification received pursuant to subsection (e) of this Code section
109 within 30 days of receipt of such notification."

110 **SECTION 4.**

111 Said title is further amended in Code Section 15-9-15, relating to Council of Probate Court
112 Judges of Georgia, by adding new subsections to read as follows:

113 "(e) Any person elected or appointed as a probate court judge shall provide written
114 notification to The Council of Probate Court Judges of Georgia of such within 30 days of
115 the date of the election or appointment. Any probate court judge who resigns, retires, or
116 is removed from office shall provide written notification to The Council of Probate Court

117 Judges of Georgia of such within 30 days of the date on which he or she resigns, retires,
118 or is removed from office.
119 (f) The Council of Probate Court Judges of Georgia shall notify the Administrative Office
120 of the Courts of any notification received pursuant to subsection (e) of this Code section
121 within 30 days of receipt of such notification."

122 **SECTION 5.**

123 Said title is further amended in Code Section 15-10-7, relating to Council of Magistrate
124 Court Judges, by adding new subsections to read as follows:

125 "(d) Any person elected or appointed as a magistrate court judge shall provide written
126 notification to the council of such within 30 days of the date of the election or appointment.
127 Any magistrate court judge who resigns, retires, or is removed from office shall provide
128 written notification to the council of such within 30 days of the date on which he or she
129 resigns, retires, or is removed from office.

130 (e) The council shall notify the Administrative Office of the Courts of any notification
131 received pursuant to subsection (d) of this Code section within 30 days of receipt of such
132 notification."

133 **SECTION 6.**

134 Said title is further amended in Code Section 15-11-58, relating to Council of Juvenile Court
135 Judges, role, and director, by adding new subsections to read as follows:

136 "(d) Any person elected or appointed as a juvenile court judge shall provide written
137 notification to the Council of Juvenile Court Judges of such within 30 days of the date of
138 the election or appointment. Any juvenile court judge who resigns, retires, or is removed
139 from office shall provide written notification to the Council of Juvenile Court Judges of
140 such within 30 days of the date on which he or she resigns, retires, or is removed from
141 office.

142 (e) The Council of Juvenile Court Judges shall notify the Administrative Office of the
143 Courts of any notification received pursuant to subsection (d) of this Code section within
144 30 days of receipt of such notification."

145 **SECTION 7.**

146 Code Section 36-32-40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to creation of
147 Council of Municipal Court Judges, membership and organization, purpose, expenses,
148 contracts, assistance to council, and members not ineligible to hold office of judge, is
149 amended by adding new subsections to read as follows:

150 "(g) Any person elected or appointed as a municipal court judge shall provide written
151 notification to the council of such within 30 days of the date of the election or appointment.
152 Any municipal court judge who resigns, retires, or is removed from office shall provide
153 written notification to the council of such within 30 days of the date on which he or she
154 resigns, retires, or is removed from office.

155 (h) The council shall notify the Administrative Office of the Courts of any notification
156 received pursuant to subsection (g) of this Code section within 30 days of receipt of such
157 notification."

158 **SECTION 8.**

159 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2025.

160 **SECTION 9.**

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