

ADOPTED

Representative Leverett of the 123rd offers the following amendment:

1 *Amend the Senate substitute to HR 1042 (LC 47 3083S as amended by AM 47 0119) by*
2 *striking lines 1 through the end and inserting in lieu thereof the following:*

3 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Judicial System Compensation; and for other
4 purposes.

5 WHEREAS, the state's judicial system is composed of multiple different groups of public
6 employees, including state and county judges, prosecutors, and public defenders; and

7 WHEREAS, there is presently no uniform system for determining compensation for all
8 public employees involved in the judicial system; and

9 WHEREAS, minimum salaries are provided for certain public employees in the judicial
10 system, either directly from state funds, or from county funds by operation of state law; and

11 WHEREAS, depending on the county or counties in which such public employees work,
12 their compensation can vary wildly; and

13 WHEREAS, there currently exist discrepancies in the retirement ages and benefits provided
14 to judges receiving state salaries; and

15 WHEREAS, an efficient judicial system is dependent on competent public servants who are
16 fairly compensated; and

WHEREAS, it would be beneficial for the General Assembly to examine the current state of how public employees in the judicial system are compensated, including matters related to the retirement benefits of judges receiving state salaries, and to discuss potential legislation on establishing a more uniform system for compensating such public employees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

(1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Study Committee on Judicial System Compensation.

(2) **Members and officers.**

(A) The committee shall be composed of eight members.

(B) The President of the Senate shall appoint four members of the Senate, and shall designate one such member as the cochairperson of the committee.

(C) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint four members of the House of Representatives, and shall designate one such member as cochairperson of the committee.

(3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

(4) **Meetings.** The cochairpersons shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

(5) **Committee assistance.** Officials and staff of the Judicial Council of Georgia, Council of State Court Judges of Georgia, Council of Probate Court Judges of Georgia, Council of Magistrate Court Judges, Council of Juvenile Court Judges, Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia, and Georgia Public Defender Council, as well as affected local government

officials and staff, are requested and encouraged to assist the committee in performing its duties and accomplishing the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

(6) Allowances and funding. The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds appropriated to the Senate and the House of Representatives.

(7) Report.

(A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that include suggestions for proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file a report of the same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

(B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file the report, subject to subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

(C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee. A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the committee and filed with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

(D) In the absence of an approved report, the cochairpersons may file with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives copies of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

(8) Abolishment. The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2024.