

House Bill 1365

By: Representatives Jones of the 25th, Silcox of the 53rd, Martin of the 49th, Jones of the 47th, Evans of the 57th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 15-6-2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 number of judges of superior courts, so as to provide for a twenty-first judge of the superior
3 courts of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit; to provide for the appointment of such additional judge
4 by the Governor; to provide for the election of successors to the judge initially appointed; to
5 prescribe the powers of such judge; to provide for the powers and duties of such additional
6 judge; to preserve existing local Acts regarding such judicial circuit; to provide for the
7 compensation of such additional judge; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective
8 date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 SECTION 1.

11 Code Section 15-6-2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the number of
12 judges of superior courts, is amended by revising paragraph (3) as follows:

13 "(3) Atlanta Circuit ~~20~~ 21"

14 **SECTION 2.**

15 An additional judge of the superior court is added to the Atlanta Judicial Circuit, thereby
16 increasing to 21 the number of judges of said circuit.

17 **SECTION 3.**

18 The additional judge of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit appointed pursuant to this Act shall be
19 appointed by the Governor for a term beginning January 1, 2027, and expiring
20 December 31, 2028, and until a successor is elected and qualified. A successor to the initial
21 judge shall be elected in a manner provided by law for the election of judges of the superior
22 courts of this state at the nonpartisan general election in 2028, for a term of four years
23 beginning on January 1, 2029, and until the election and qualification of a successor. Future
24 successors shall be elected at the general election each four years thereafter for terms of four
25 years and until the election and qualification of a successor. The successor shall take office
26 on the first day of January following the date of the election. Such elections shall be held
27 and conducted in a manner provided by law for the election of judges of the superior courts
28 of this state.

29 **SECTION 4.**

30 Said additional judge of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit shall have and may exercise all powers,
31 duties, dignity, jurisdiction, privileges, and immunities of the present judges of the superior
32 courts of this state. Any of the judges of the superior court of said circuit may preside over
33 any case therein and perform any official act as judge thereof. The additional judge is
34 authorized to employ court personnel on the same basis as other judges of the Atlanta
35 Judicial Circuit.

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SECTION 5.

37 Except as expressly stated, this Act shall not be construed to alter or repeal any provision of
38 any local Act relating to the Atlanta Judicial Circuit. Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to
39 limit or restrict the inherent powers, duties, and responsibilities of superior court judges
40 provided by the Constitution and statutes of the State of Georgia.

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SECTION 6.

42 The compensation, salary, and contingent expense allowance of said additional judge of the
43 Atlanta Judicial Circuit shall be the same as that of the other judges of the superior court of
44 the Atlanta Judicial Circuit. Any salary supplements or locality pay provided by the county
45 of said circuit shall also be applicable to the additional judge provided for in this Act.

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SECTION 7.

47 This Act shall become effective for the purposes of appointing the additional judge upon its
48 approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval and for all other
49 purposes on January 1, 2027.

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SECTION 8.

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