

House Bill 1534

By: Representatives Westbrook of the 163rd, Stephens of the 164th, Petrea of the 166th, Jackson of the 165th, and Hitchens of the 161st

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating the State Court of Chatham County, approved December 18, 1819
2 (Ga. L. 1819, p. 16), as amended, particularly by an Act approved May 30, 2003 (Ga. L.
3 2003, p. 3667), so as to provide for an additional judge of the State Court of Chatham
4 County; to provide for the election, powers, duties, jurisdiction, privileges, immunities, and
5 compensation of such additional judge; to authorize the governing authority of Chatham
6 County to provide facilities, office space, supplies, equipment, and personnel for such judge;
7 to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 An Act creating the State Court of Chatham County, approved December 18, 1819 (Ga. L.
11 1819, p. 16), as amended, particularly by an Act approved May 30, 2003 (Ga. L. 2003, p.
12 3667) is amended by revising Section 2A as follows:

13

"SECTION 2A.

14 (a) Until January 1, 2029, there shall be three judges of the State Court of Chatham
15 County, as provided by existing law. The judges of said court in office prior to January 1,
16 2027, shall continue to serve the terms of office to which they were elected or appointed
17 and until their successors are elected and qualified.

18 (b) Effective January 1, 2029, there shall be four judges of the State Court of Chatham
19 County. The fourth judge added effective January 1, 2029, shall be elected by the qualified
20 voters of Chatham County at the nonpartisan general election held and conducted jointly
21 with the general primary in 2028. The judge so elected shall serve a four-year term and
22 until said judge's successor is elected and qualified. The successors to said judge shall be
23 elected by the qualified voters of Chatham County at elections as provided for by law.

24 (c) The fourth judge of the State Court of Chatham County shall have and may exercise
25 all powers, duties, jurisdictions, privileges, and immunities of the present judges of the
26 State Court of Chatham County. Any of the judges of said court may preside over any
27 cause and perform any official act as judge thereof. The compensation of the additional
28 judge shall be the same as that provided for other judges of the State Court of Chatham
29 County. Upon request of the additional judge, the governing authority of Chatham County
30 is authorized to furnish the additional judge with suitable courtroom space and facilities,
31 office space, office equipment, supplies, and such personnel as may be considered
32 necessary by the court to the proper function of the court. All of the expenditures
33 authorized herein are declared to be an expense of court and payable out of the county
34 treasury as such."

35

SECTION 2.

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