

ADOPTED

Senators Halpern of the 39th and Parent of the 44th offered the following amendment #1:

1 *Amend the Senate Committee on Judiciary substitute to HB 1215 (LC 49 2851S) by inserting*
2 *after "provide for a" on line 2 "twenty-first judge of the superior courts of the Atlanta*
3 *Judicial Circuit, a sixth judge of the superior courts of the Clayton Judicial Circuit, and"*

4 *By replacing lines 19 through 40 with the following:*

5 Code Section 15-6-2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the number of
6 judges of superior courts, is amended by revising paragraphs (3), (10), and (24) as follows:

- 7 "(3) Atlanta Circuit ~~20~~ 21"
- 8 "(10) Clayton Circuit ~~5~~ 6"
- 9 "(24) Middle Circuit ~~2~~ 3"

SECTION 1-2.

11 One additional judge of the superior courts is added to each of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit,
12 the Clayton Judicial Circuit, and the Middle Judicial Circuit, thereby increasing to 21, six,
13 and three, respectively, the number of judges of each such circuit.

SECTION 1-3.

15 Such additional judges shall be, subject to appropriations, appointed by the Governor for a
16 term beginning January 1, 2027, and continuing through December 31, 2028, and until their
17 respective successors are elected and qualified. Such respective successors shall be elected
18 in the manner provided by law for the election of judges of the superior courts of this state
19 at the nonpartisan judicial election in 2028 for a term of four years beginning on January 1,
20 2029, and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. Future successors shall be

21 elected at the nonpartisan judicial election every four years thereafter for terms of four years
22 and until their successors are elected and qualified. The newly elected and qualified judges
23 shall each take office on the first day of January following the date of the election.

24 **SECTION 1-4.**

25 The additional judges of the superior courts of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit, the Clayton
26 Judicial Circuit, and the Middle Judicial Circuit, respectively, shall have and may exercise
27 all powers, duties, dignities, jurisdiction, privileges, and immunities of the present judges of
28 the superior courts of this state. Any judge of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit, the Clayton
29 Judicial Circuit, or the Middle Judicial Circuit may preside over any cause, whether in his
30 or her own or in other circuits, and perform any official act as judge thereof, including sitting
31 on appellate courts as provided by law.

32 *By replacing "judge" with "judges" each time the former appears on lines 42, 48, and 66.*

33 *By replacing "his or her" with "his or her respective" each time the former appears on lines*
34 *42 and 43.*

35 *By replacing "Middle Judicial Circuit" with "Atlanta Judicial Circuit, the Clayton Judicial*
36 *Circuit, and the Middle Judicial Circuit, respectively" each time the former appears on lines*
37 *45, 47-48, 50, 66-67, 74, 107, and 114.*

38 *By replacing "such circuit" with "such circuits, respectively," each time the former appears*
39 *on lines 47, 67, 80, 81, 82, 90, and 107.*

40 *By replacing "court" with "courts, respectively," each time the former appears on line 70.*

41 *By replacing lines 95 through 96 with the following:*

42 The judges of the superior courts of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit, the Clayton Judicial Circuit,
43 and Middle Judicial Circuit, respectively, shall be authorized and empowered to appoint an
44 additional court reporter for each such circuit, whose respective compensation shall

45 *By replacing lines 100 through 104 with the following:*

46 superior courts of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit, the Clayton Judicial Circuit, and the Middle
47 Judicial Circuit, respectively, may bear teste in the name of any judge of each such circuit,
48 respectively, and, when issued by and in the name of any such judge, shall be fully valid and
49 may be heard and determined before the same or any other judge of the same circuit. Any
50 judge of each such circuit, respectively, may preside over any case therein and perform any
51 official act as judge thereof.