

House Bill 1534 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, Petrea of the 166<sup>th</sup>, Jackson of the 165<sup>th</sup>, and Hitchens of the 161<sup>st</sup>

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 said additional judge; to authorize the governing authority of Chatham  
6 County to provide facilities, office space, supplies, equipment, and personnel for said 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, 2027, 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, 2027, there shall be four judges of the State Court of Chatham  
19 County. The fourth judge added effective January 1, 2027, shall be appointed by the  
20 Governor for an initial term of office ending on December 31, 2028, and until his or her  
21 successor is elected and qualified. The successor to said judge shall be elected by the  
22 qualified voters of Chatham County at an election to be held and conducted jointly with the  
23 general primary in 2028. The judge so elected shall serve a four-year term and until such  
24 judge's successor is elected and qualified.

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

36

**SECTION 2.**

37 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.