

House Bill 1236 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives New of the 64<sup>th</sup>, Alexander of the 66<sup>th</sup>, Bruce of the 61<sup>st</sup>, and Thomas of the 65<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating the State Court of Douglas County, approved April 1, 1999 (Ga.  
2 L. 1999, p. 3606), as amended, particularly by an Act approved May 13, 2008 (Ga. L. 2008,  
3 p. 3847), and an Act approved May 6, 2009 (Ga. L. 2009, p. 3863), so as to add a third judge  
4 for the State Court of Douglas County; to provide for the appointment of the initial additional  
5 judge and the election of successors; to provide for terms of office of said additional judge  
6 and successors to such judge; to update certain provisions to account for additional judges;  
7 to provide for related matters; to provide effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for  
8 other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

11 An Act creating the State Court of Douglas County, approved April 1, 1999 (Ga. L. 1999,  
12 p. 3606), as amended, particularly by an Act approved May 13, 2008 (Ga. L. 2008, p. 3847),  
13 and an Act approved May 6, 2009 (Ga. L. 2009, p. 3863), is amended by revising  
14 subsections (a) and (b) of Section 11 as follows:

15 "(a) As of the effective date of this Act, there shall be three judges of the State Court of  
16 Douglas County. The judges serving on the day immediately preceding the effective date

17 of this Act shall serve out the terms to which they were elected or appointed and until their  
18 successors are elected or appointed and qualified. The judges of such court shall be elected  
19 by the qualified voters of Douglas County, as provided by Chapter 7 of Title 15 and Title  
20 21 of the O.C.G.A.; provided, however, that the initial additional judge provided for by this  
21 Act shall be appointed by the Governor for a term beginning July 1, 2025, and continuing  
22 through December 31, 2026, and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. The  
23 successor to such initial additional judge shall be elected in the manner provided by law  
24 for the election of judges of the state courts of this state at the nonpartisan judicial election  
25 in 2026, for a term of four years beginning on January 1, 2027, and until his or her  
26 successor is elected and qualified. Future successors to the judges of the court shall be  
27 elected at the nonpartisan general election conducted immediately prior to the expiration  
28 of their terms of office. Such successors shall take office on the first day of January  
29 following their election and shall serve for a term of office of four years and until their  
30 respective successors are duly elected and qualified.

31 (b) Reserved."

32 **SECTION 2.**

33 Said Act is further amended by revising Sections 15 and 16 as follows:

34 "SECTION 15.

35 In the event that a judge of the State Court of Douglas County is unable to preside in the  
36 court or is disqualified for any reason, then the chief judge may appoint a judge pro hac  
37 vice to serve in his or her absence. Said judge pro hac vice shall meet the same  
38 qualifications as the judges of the State Court of Douglas County.

