

House Bill 539 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representative Leverett of the 123rd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To provide that the judge of the Probate Court of Wilkes County shall also serve as the chief
2 magistrate judge of the Magistrate Court of Wilkes County on and after January 1, 2025; to
3 provide for the continuation in office and expiration of term of the current chief magistrate
4 judge; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Pursuant to subsection (f) of Code Section 15-10-20 of the Official Code of Georgia
8 Annotated, the chief magistrate judge of the Magistrate Court of Wilkes County shall not be
9 separately elected for any term of office that begins on or after January 1, 2025, but on and
10 after that date the judge of the Probate Court of Wilkes County shall serve as the chief
11 magistrate judge of the Magistrate Court of Wilkes County. There shall be no election
12 in 2023 or thereafter for the office of chief magistrate judge of the Magistrate Court of
13 Wilkes County. The term of office of the judge of the probate court serving as the chief
14 magistrate judge shall be concurrent with the judge of the probate court's term of office.

15 **SECTION 2.**

16 The chief magistrate judge of the Magistrate Court of Wilkes County who was serving as
17 such on the effective date of this Act, and any person selected to fill a vacancy in such office
18 shall continue to serve as such judge for a term of office which shall expire on
19 December 31, 2024, and during such time period shall continue to receive the same salary
20 such person was receiving for performing such duties.

21 **SECTION 3.**

22 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.