

House Bill 543 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Reeves of the 99th, Smith of the 18th, Silcox of the 53rd, Leverett of the 123rd, and Gunter of the 8th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 15-12-122 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 demand of jury panels from which to select jury in civil actions in the state courts and the
3 superior courts, so as to revise an exception to six-person jury trials in civil actions; to
4 provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date and applicability; to repeal
5 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 15-12-122 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to demand of
9 jury panels from which to select jury in civil actions in the state courts and the superior
10 courts, is amended by revising subsection (a) as follows:

11 "15-12-122.

12 (a)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this ~~Code section~~ subsection, in all civil
13 actions in the state courts, each party may demand a full panel of 12 competent and
14 impartial jurors from which to select a jury. When one or more of the regular panel of
15 trial jurors is absent or for any reason disqualified, the judge, at the request of counsel for
16 either party, shall cause the panel to be filled by additional competent and impartial jurors

17 to the number of 12 before requiring the parties or their counsel to strike a jury. In all
18 cases the parties or their attorneys may strike alternately, with the plaintiff exercising the
19 first strike, until a jury of six persons is impaneled to try the case.

20 (2) In all civil actions in the state courts in which the claim for damages is greater
21 than ~~\$25,000.00~~ \$50,000.00, either party may demand in writing prior to the
22 commencement of the trial term that the case be tried by a jury of 12. If such a demand
23 is made, the judge shall follow the procedures for superior courts of subsection (b) of this
24 Code section."

25 **SECTION 2.**

26 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2023.

27 **SECTION 3.**

28 This Act shall apply to all civil actions that may be brought or are pending in state courts on
29 or after the effective date.

30 **SECTION 4.**

31 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.