

House Bill 1466 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Gullett of the 19th, New of the 64th, Smith of the 18th, Kelley of the 16th, and Momtahan of the 17th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act to create the State Court of Paulding County, approved June 29, 2020 (Ga.
2 L. 2020, p. 3562), so as to provide an additional judge for such court; to provide for the
3 appointment of such additional judge of such court; to provide for the election of successors;
4 to provide for a chief judge; to provide for related matters; to provide for effective dates; to
5 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 An Act creating the State Court of Paulding County, approved June 29, 2020 (Ga. L. 2020,
9 p. 3562), is amended by revising Section 11 as follows:

10 "SECTION 11.

11 (a) There shall be a chief judge, who shall be the judge of the State Court of Paulding
12 County serving at the time of the effective date of this Act, and one additional judge of
13 such court who each shall be elected by the qualified voters of Paulding County, as
14 provided by Chapter 7 of Title 15 and Title 21 of the O.C.G.A.; provided, however, that
15 the initial additional judge shall be appointed by the Governor for a term beginning
16 January 1, 2025, and continuing through December 31, 2026, and until his or her successor

17 is elected and qualified. The successor to such initial additional judge shall be elected in
18 the manner provided by law for the election of judges of the state courts of this state at the
19 nonpartisan judicial election in 2026, for a term of four years beginning on
20 January 1, 2027, and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. The judge of such
21 court in office on the effective date of this Act shall continue to serve the remainder of the
22 term of office to which he or she was elected and until his or her successor is elected and
23 qualified. Future successors to such judges shall be elected at the nonpartisan general
24 election conducted immediately prior to the expiration of the term of office. Such
25 successors shall take office on the first day of January following their election and shall
26 serve for a term of office of four years and until their respective successors are duly elected
27 and qualified.

28 (b) The judges of such court shall have such qualifications and shall be subject to such
29 restrictions and discipline as provided in Chapter 7 of Title 15 of the O.C.G.A. Such
30 judges shall be vested with all the power and authority of the judges of the state courts by
31 Chapter 7 of Title 15 of the O.C.G.A.

32 (c) Each judge shall be a full-time judge, shall be paid an annual salary in an amount equal
33 to 90 percent of the state salary for judges of the superior court not including any local
34 supplements, and shall receive all legally required benefits. Such salary shall be payable
35 out of the funds of Paulding County at the same intervals as installments are paid to other
36 county employees. The governing authority of Paulding County may supplement such
37 judges' salary.

38 (d) The judge of the State Court of Paulding County who has served the longest
39 continuous period of time in office as judge of said court shall be the chief judge of the
40 State Court of Paulding County."

41

SECTION 2.

42 Said Act is further amended by revising Sections 14 through 16 as follows:

43 "SECTION 14.
44 In the event a judge of the State Court of Paulding County is unable to preside in the court
45 or is disqualified for any reason, then the chief judge may appoint a judge pro hac vice to
46 serve in his or her absence. Such judge pro hac vice shall meet the same qualifications as
47 the judge of the State Court of Paulding County.

48 SECTION 15.
49 The judges of the State Court of Paulding County may appoint official stenographers for
50 such court who shall report such cases as the court may require. Such stenographers shall
51 receive the same fees as allowed for similar services in the superior court which shall be
52 taxed and enforced as in the superior court.

53 SECTION 16.
54 The judges and solicitor-general of the State Court of Paulding County shall make
55 application to the Paulding County Board of Commissioners for the provision of necessary
56 and reasonable expenses incurred by them in the operation of the court."

57 SECTION 3.
58 For the purpose of appointing the initial associate judge under this Act, this Act shall become
59 effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.
60 For all other purposes, this Act shall become effective on January 1, 2025.

61 SECTION 4.
62 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.