

Senate Bill 328

By: Senators Strickland of the 42nd, Davenport of the 17th, Williams of the 25th and Jones of the 10th

AS PASSED

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating a State Court of Henry County, approved March 27, 1998 (Ga. L.
2 1998, p. 3954), as amended, particularly by an Act approved May 13, 2008 (Ga. L. 2008, p.
3 4090), so as to provide an additional judge for the State Court of Henry County; to provide
4 for the appointment of the initial additional judge; to provide for the election of successors;
5 to provide for terms of office of said additional judge and successors to such judge; to
6 provide for the compensation and expenses of said additional judge; to provide for a chief
7 judge; to provide for a salary supplement for the chief judge; to provide for the appointment
8 of a judge pro hac vice; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
9 other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 An Act creating a State Court of Henry County, approved March 27, 1998 (Ga. L. 1998, p.
13 3954), as amended, particularly by an Act approved May 13, 2008 (Ga. L. 2008, p. 4090),
14 is amended by revising Section 11 as follows:

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"SECTION 11.

15

16 (a) Until January 1, 2026, there shall be four judges of the State Court of Henry County.
17 The judges of the state court in office on January 1, 2025, shall continue to serve the term
18 of office to which such judge was elected and until the election and qualification of his or
19 her successor.

20 (b) Effective January 1, 2026, there shall be five judges of the State Court of Henry
21 County. The fifth judge added effective January 1, 2026, shall be appointed by the
22 Governor for an initial term of office ending December 31, 2028, and until the election and
23 qualification of his or her successor. The successor to said judge shall be elected by the
24 qualified voters of Henry County at a nonpartisan election to be held and conducted jointly
25 with the general election in 2028 and quadrennially thereafter pursuant to Code
26 Section 21-2-138 of the O.C.G.A. The judge thus elected shall serve a four-year term until
27 the election and qualification of his or her successor.

28 (c) The judges of said 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. Said judges
30 shall be vested with the power and authority of the judges of the state courts by Chapter 7
31 of Title 15 of the O.C.G.A.

32 (d) The judges shall devote their full time to the duties of said office and shall be paid a
33 salary equal to 90 percent of the salary now or hereafter paid to the judges of the Superior
34 Court of Henry County. Said salary shall be payable out of the funds of Henry County at
35 the same intervals as installments are paid to other county employees.

36 (e) The judge of the State Court of Henry County who has served the longest period of
37 time in office as judge of said court shall be the chief judge of the State Court of Henry
38 County, and such chief judge shall receive a salary supplement of \$10,000.00 per annum
39 to compensate him or her for the administrative duties imposed upon the chief judge.

40 (f) In the event it should become necessary, the chief judge may appoint a judge pro hac
41 vice to serve, not to exceed a one-year term per appointment. Such judge pro hac vice shall
42 meet the same requirements as a judge of the State Court of Henry County."

43 **SECTION 2.**

44 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
45 without such approval.

46 **SECTION 3.**

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