

House Bill 304 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Rhodes of the 120<sup>th</sup> and Williams of the 145<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act providing for the Magistrate Court of Putnam County, approved March 12,  
2 1984 (Ga. L. 1984, p. 3788), as amended, particularly by an Act approved May 12, 2015 (Ga.  
3 L. 2015, p. 4159), so as to revise the number, manner of selection, and compensation of the  
4 judges of the magistrate court; to authorize up to two other part-time magistrates; to provide  
5 for conditions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
6 purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 An Act providing for the Magistrate Court of Putnam County, approved March 12, 1984  
10 (Ga. L. 1984, p. 3788), as amended, is amended by revising Section 2 as follows:

11 "SECTION 2.

12 The number of magistrates authorized for the Magistrate Court of Putnam County shall be  
13 three magistrates, consisting of a chief magistrate and up to two other part-time  
14 magistrates."

15 **SECTION 2.**

16 Said Act is further amended by revising Section 4 as follows:

17 "SECTION 4.

18 The magistrates other than the chief magistrate shall be appointed by the chief magistrate,  
19 provided that the total cost for the employment of such other magistrate does not exceed  
20 the amount specifically provided for by the governing authority of Putnam County for such  
21 purposes. The term of such other magistrate shall run concurrently with the term of the  
22 chief magistrate."

23 **SECTION 3.**

24 Said Act is further amended by revising Section 5 as follows:

25 "SECTION 5.

26 Vacancies in the office of chief magistrate shall be filled as provided by general law.

27 Vacancies in the office of the other magistrates shall be filled by an appointment by the  
28 chief magistrate, provided that the total cost for the employment of such other magistrate  
29 does not exceed the amount specifically provided for by the governing authority of Putnam  
30 County for such purposes."

31 **SECTION 4.**

32 Said Act is further amended by revising Section 7 as follows:

33 "SECTION 7.

34 The salary for the magistrates, other than the chief magistrate, shall be determined by the  
35 chief magistrate, provided that the total cost for the employment of such other magistrate  
36 does not exceed the amount specifically provided for by the governing authority of Putnam  
37 County for such purposes."

38 **SECTION 5.**

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