

A RESOLUTION

Creating the Commission on the Appellate Courts of Georgia; providing for the membership of the commission and the selection, service, and compensation of members; providing for the powers and duties of the commission with respect to a study of the appellate courts of the State of Georgia; providing for an effective date; and for other purposes.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

There is created the Commission on the Appellate Courts of Georgia. The commission shall consist of 13 members as follows:

- (1) The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia or his or her designee;
- (2) The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of Georgia or his or her designee;
- (3) One judge of the superior courts of the State of Georgia who is the President of the Council of Superior Court Judges of Georgia or his or her designee;
- (4) One judge of the state courts of the State of Georgia who is the President of the Council of State Court Judges of Georgia or his or her designee;
- (5) The President of the State Bar of Georgia or his or her designee;
- (6) Two members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate and two members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; and
- (7) Two members appointed by the President of the Senate who are not members of the Senate and two members appointed by the Speaker of the House who are not members of the House of Representatives.

All appointments to the commission shall be made with the goal of obtaining a diverse membership, including members of both the legal profession and the general public and members from a variety of backgrounds.

## SECTION 2.

The commission shall undertake a study of the current structure and operations of the appellate courts of the State of Georgia with the goal of determining what changes, if any, should be recommended in such structure and operations in order to:

- (1) Ensure a high quality of appellate review of trial court decisions where such review is required or appropriate;
- (2) Facilitate the development of an organized and consistent body of appellate decisions for the guidance of the bench, the bar, and the general public;
- (3) Provide for timely resolution of appeals;
- (4) Provide an efficient and cost-effective appellate system, subject to the recognition that the system is paid for with public funds;
- (5) Utilize judicial resources in an effective manner; and
- (6) Achieve such other goals as the commission determines appropriate.

## SECTION 3.

The chairperson and other officers of the commission shall be selected by majority vote of the commission. The commission shall meet at the call of the chair.

## SECTION 4.

The legislative members of the commission shall receive expense reimbursement and allowances from legislative funds in the manner provided for legislative members of interim committees. Any members of the commission who are state officers and employees other than members of the General Assembly shall receive no compensation for their service on the commission but may be reimbursed for expenses incurred in serving on the commission from funds of their respective agencies, as provided by law. Any members of the commission who are not state employees or officers shall receive no compensation for their service on the commission but may be reimbursed for reasonable actual expenses incurred in serving on the commission from funds of the legislative branch.

SECTION 5.

All officers and agencies of state government shall cooperate with the commission in the performance of its functions.

SECTION 6.

The commission may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. However, the commission shall not meet for more than ten days unless additional meeting days are authorized by the Governor.

SECTION 7.

The commission shall issue a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Chief Justice, and the Speaker of the House. Such report shall be issued not later than December 31, 1996. The commission shall stand abolished as of the end of the last day of the regular 1997 session of the General Assembly.