

House Bill 207

By: Representatives Beskin of the 54th, Willard of the 51st, Pak of the 108th, Caldwell of the 131st, Quick of the 117th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to courts, so as to
2 change provisions relating to when a judge, judicial officer, grand juror, or trial juror may
3 be disqualified from presiding or serving, as applicable, due to being related by
4 consanguinity or affinity to a party; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws;
5 and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to courts, is amended by revising
9 paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Code Section 15-1-8, relating to when a judge or judicial
10 officer is disqualified, as follows:

11 "(2) Preside, act, or serve in any case or matter when such judge is related by
12 consanguinity or affinity within the ~~sixth~~ third degree as computed according to the civil
13 law to any party interested in the result of the case or matter; or"

14 **SECTION 2.**

15 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 15-12-70, relating to disqualification
16 for relationship to interested party, as follows:

17 "15-12-70.

18 All grand jurors in the courts of this state shall be disqualified to act or serve in any case
19 or matter when such jurors are related by consanguinity or affinity to any party interested
20 in the result of the case or matter within the ~~sixth~~ third degree as computed according to
21 the civil law. Relationship more remote shall not be a disqualification."

22 **SECTION 3.**

23 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 15-12-135, relating
24 to disqualification for relationship to interested party, as follows:

25 "(a) All trial jurors in the courts of this state shall be disqualified to act or serve in any case
26 or matter when such jurors are related by consanguinity or affinity to any party interested
27 in the result of the case or matter within the ~~sixth~~ third degree as computed according to
28 the civil law. Relationship more remote shall not be a disqualification."

29

SECTION 4.

30 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.