Senate Bill 132

By: Senators Tillery of the 19th, Stone of the 23rd, Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd, Mullis of the 53rd, Black of the 8th and others

AS PASSED

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

- 1 To amend Title 9 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to civil practice, so as
- 2 to remove the statutory civil case filing and disposition forms and allow the Judicial Council
- 3 of Georgia to promulgate such forms; to revise provisions relating to the transmission of such
- 4 forms; to amend Title 9, Title 15, and Article 1 of Chapter 9 of Title 19 of the Official Code
- 5 of Georgia Annotated, relating to civil practice, courts, and general provisions for child
- 6 custody proceedings, respectively, so as to provide for conforming cross-references; to
- 7 require annual reporting of certain information; to provide for related matters; to provide for
- 8 an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **PART I**11 **SECTION 1-1.**

- 12 Title 9 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to civil practice, is amended by
- 13 revising Code Section 9-11-133, relating to forms meeting requirements for civil case filing
- 14 and disposition, as follows:
- 15 "9-11-133.
- 16 (a) The forms set out in subsections (b), (c), (d), and (e) of this Code section or forms
- 17 substantially similar to such forms shall be sufficient to meet the requirements The Judicial
- Council of Georgia, with the approval of the Supreme Court, shall promulgate forms to be
- 19 <u>used</u> for civil case filing and disposition forms information; provided, however, that the
- 20 general civil case filing information form and domestic relations case filing information
- form shall be required to contain an acknowledgment by the filer that the complaint and
- 22 any exhibits or other attachments satisfy the redaction requirements of Code Section
- 9-11-7.1. The civil case forms set out in Exhibit F of the 'Report and Recommendations
- of the 1997-1998 Court Filings Committee' published by the State Bar of Georgia and
- 25 dated May 15, 1998, are substantially similar to the forms set out in this Code section.

(b) General Civil Case Filing Information Form.

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27	GENERAL C	IVIL CASE FILING
28	INFORM	ATION FORM
29	(NONI	DOMESTIC)
30	Court	
31		Date filed
32	State	mm-dd-yyy
33	Docket no.	
34	Plaintiff(s) (last, suffix, first, middle	Defendant(s) (last, suffix, first, middle
35	initial, maiden)	initial, maiden)
36	1	1
37	2	2
38	3	3
39	4	4
40	Plaintiff/petitioner's attorney	т.
41		——— Pro Se
42	Bar #	110 50
43		
44	No. of plaintiffs	No. of defendants
45	CHECK PRIMARY CASE TYPE:	IF TORT, IS CASE TYPE:
46	(Check only ONE)	(Check no more than TWO)
47	— Contract/Account	Auto Accident
48	Wills/Estate	— Premises Liability
49	— Real Property	<u> </u>
50	<u>— Dispossessory/Distress</u>	— Other Professional
51	— Personal Property	Negligence
52	— Equity	— Product Liability
53	— Habeas Corpus	Other (specify)
54	Appeals, Reviews	
55	Postjudgment Garnishment,	Are punitive damages pleaded?
56	Attachment, or Other Relief	Yes No
57	— Nondomestic Contempt	100110
58	_	

Other General Civil (specify)	
(c) Domestic Relations Case Filing Info	ormation Form.
DOMESTIC RELA	TIONS CASE FILING
INFORMA	ATION FORM
Court	
Superior County	Date filed
	mm-dd-yyy
Docket no	
Plaintiff(s)	Defendant(s)
(last, suffix, first, middle initial, maiden)	(last, suffix, first, middle initial, maiden)
1	1.
2	2
Plaintiff/Petitioner's attorney	
	—— Pro Se
Bar #	
	CONTEMPT
	— Contempt - Custody,
	Visitation, or
CHECK CASE TYPE:	Parenting Time
(one or more)	— Contempt - Child
Divorce (includes	Support and Alimony
annulment)	Contempt - Child Support
Contested? Yes No	— Contempt - Alimony
Child Custody	— Other Domestic Contempt
issue? Yes No	
Child Support	
issue? Yes No	FAMILY VIOLENCE
Separate Maintenance	Additional information -
— Adoption	Ex Parte Relief
— Paternity (includes	
legitimation)	Did the initial pleading

92	Interstate Support	include a request for
93	Enforcement Action	relief:
94	Domestication of	1. From alleged family
95	Foreign Custody Decree	violence? Yes No
96	Family Violence Act	2. Was ex parte relief
97	Petition	requested? Yes No
98		3. Was ex parte relief
99		granted? Yes No
100	MODIFICATION	OTHER
101	<u> </u>	Have the parties agreed to
102	Visitation, or	binding arbitration? YesNo
103	Parenting Time	Have the parties reached
104	Does the modification	a custodial agreement? YesNo
105	include a parent	If yes, is custody:
106	selection by a child	Joint custody
107	who is at least 14	Joint legal custody
108	years of age? Yes No	Joint physical custody
109	Modification - Child	Sole custody to:
110	Support and Alimony	Financial affidavit
111	Modification - Child	submitted?YesNo
112	Support	Child support forms
113	<u> Modification - Alimony</u>	submitted? YesNo
114	(d) General Civil Case Final Disposition	Form.
115	GENERAL CIV	TIL CASE FINAL
116	DISPOSIT	ION FORM
117	(NONDC	OMESTIC)
118	Court	
119	Superior County	Date
120	—— State	disposed mm-dd-yyyy
121	Docket no.	
122	Reporting party	
123	(Name)	(Title)

Name of plaintiff/petitioner(s)	
Plaintiff/petitioner's attorney	—— Pro Se
Bar#	rio se
Name of defendant/respondent(s)	
Defendant/respondent's attorney	Duo Co
Bar#	—— Pro Se
TYPE OF DISPOSITION	AWARD
1 Pretrial Dismissal (specify which	1. If verdict for plaintiff, how much was
t ype)	awarded?
A Involuntary	\$compensatory
B Voluntary (without	\$ punitive
prejudice)	2. If verdict on cross or
C Voluntary (with	counter claims, how much
prejudice)	was awarded?
2 Pretrial Settlement	\$compensatory
3 Default Judgment	\$punitive
4 Summary Judgment	3. Did the court modify the
5 Transferred/	award?
Consolidated	<u>— Yes — No</u>
6 Bench Trial	4. Were attorneys fees
7 Jury Trial (specify	awarded?
outcome further)	Yes No
A Dismissal after	
jury selected	ADR
B Settlement during	1. Was ADR utilized?
trial	<u>YesNo</u>
C Judgment on Verdict	2. If yes, was it (check if
D Directed Verdict or	applicable):
JNOV	<u>court annexed?</u>

	<u>court mandated?</u>
1. Judgment on verdict.	3. Did the matter settle after
Was the verdict:	trial for other than
A For plaintiff(s) (all)	judgment? (If known at
B For defendant(s) (all)	the time of this
C Other: (explain	 submission)
	Yes No
(e) Domestic Relations Case Final I	– Disposition Information form.
DOMESTIC RI	ELATIONS CASE FINAL
DISPOSITION	HNFORMATION FORM
Court	D. A
Superior County	Date
Docket no	disposed mm-dd-yyy
	
Reporting party	(T:41-)
Name)	(Title)
Name of plaintiff/petitioner(s)	
Plaintiff/petitioner's attorney	_
riamim/pennoner's automey	— Pro Se
Bar #	110 50
Name of defendant/respondent(s)	
Defendant/respondent's attorney	
	Pro Se
Bar #	
	RELIEF GRANTED (Check all
	that apply)
	1 Ex Parte Relief
	2 Temporary Relief

192	TYPE OF DISPOSITION	3 Final Relief
193	1. Dismissed Without	A Divorce/Annulment/
194	Final Order	Separate Maintenance
195	A Voluntary (by	B Child Custody
196	parties)	(i) Parenting plan
197	B Involuntary (by	included? Yes No
198	court)	(ii) Custodial arrangement:
199	2 Pretrial Settlement	Joint custody
200	3 Judgment on the	Joint legal custody
201	Pleadings	Joint physical custody
202	4 Summary Judgment	——Sole custody
203	5 Trial	to:
204	A. Bench Trial	(iii) Fourteen year old
205	B. Jury Trial	made parental
206	1 Dismissal after	selection? Yes No
207	jury selected	C. Visitation or parenting time
208	2 Settlement	Approximate percentage
209	during trial	of parenting time per
210	3 Judgment on	year (or number of days)
211	Verdict	for: Mother Father
212	4. Directed	Parenting time was
213	Verdict or	contested? Yes No
214	JNOV	D Child Support
215		(i) Forms attached? Yes No
216		E Legitimation/
217		Paternity
218		F Alimony
219	ADR	G. Contempt
220	1. Was mediation utilized?	H Equitable Division
221	—	I Protective Order
222	2. If yes, was it (check if	
223	applicable):	Finding of family
224	<u>court annexed?</u>	violence? Yes No
225	<u>court mandated?</u>	J Adoption

226	3. Was there an agreement to	K Attorney's fees?Yes	_ No
227	binding arbitration? Yes No	If yes, in what amount: \$	
228	If yes, what matters were	and to whom:	=
229	subject to binding arbitration?	L Other (specify)	_
230	—— Child custody		
231	— Visitation or Parenting Time	4 Dismissed prior to	
232	—— Parenting Plan	granting of relief.	
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234	PAF	RT II	
235	SECTI	ON 2-1.	

Said title is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 9-11-3, relating to commencement of action and filing of civil case filing form, as follows:

"(b) At the time of filing the complaint for a civil action in superior court or state court, the plaintiff shall file the appropriate civil case filing form with the clerk of the court. The form shall contain complete information and shall be substantially in the form prescribed in Code Section 9-11-133 by the Judicial Council of Georgia. The filing of the complaint shall not be delayed for the filing of the case filing form. If, after a civil action has been filed, the court presiding over the civil action decides that the civil case filing form has not been filed or has been filed incorrectly, the court shall require the plaintiff to file the civil case filing form or an amended form. In no case shall the failure to accurately complete the civil case filing form required by this Code section provide a basis to dismiss a civil action."

SECTION 2-2.

Said title is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 9-11-58, relating to entry of judgment and filing of civil case disposition form, as follows:

"(b) When judgment entered. The filing with the clerk of a judgment, signed by the judge, with the fully completed civil case disposition form constitutes the entry of the judgment, and, unless the court otherwise directs, no judgment shall be effective for any purpose until the entry of the same, as provided in this subsection. As part of the filing of the final judgment, a civil case disposition form shall be filed by the prevailing party or by the plaintiff if the case is settled, dismissed, or otherwise disposed of without a prevailing party; provided, however, that the amount of a sealed or otherwise confidential settlement agreement shall not be disclosed on the civil case disposition form. The form shall be

substantially in the form prescribed in Code Section 9-11-133 by the Judicial Council of Georgia. If any of the information required by the form is sealed by the court, the form shall state that fact and the information under seal shall not be provided. The entry of the judgment shall not be made by the clerk of the court until the civil case disposition form is filed. The entry of the judgment shall not be delayed for the taxing of costs. This subsection shall not apply to actions brought pursuant to Code Sections 44-7-50 through 44-7-59 Article 3 of Chapter 7 of Title 44, relating to landlord and tenant dispossessory proceedings."

267 **SECTION 2-3.**

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- Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to courts, is amended by revising paragraph (4) of Code Section 15-5-24, relating to the duties of the Administrative Office of the Courts, as follows:
- "(4) Analyze data relating to civil cases collected pursuant to subsection (b) of Code
 Section 9-11-3 and subsection (b) of Code Section 9-11-58 and on or before the first day
 of October each year provide such data, analysis, or both data and analysis to the courts
 and agencies of the judicial branch, agencies of the executive branch, and the General
 Assembly chairpersons of the Senate Judiciary Committee and the House Committee on
 Judiciary;"

277 **SECTION 2-4.**

- Said title is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 15-5-82, relating to the authority of the Georgia Courts Automation Commission, as follows:
- 280 "(a) The commission shall be authorized to:
- 281 (1) Define, implement, and administer a state-wide courts automation system including 282 data collection, networking, data storage, retrieval, processing, and distribution;
- 283 (2) Coordinate and cooperate with the state's chief information officer with regard to 284 planning, implementation, and administration of a state-wide courts automation system 285 to take advantage of existing state resources where possible;
- 286 (3) Receive electronic data from the civil case filing and disposition forms that are
 287 required to be filed in civil cases pursuant to subsection (b) of Code Section 9-11-3 and
 288 subsection (b) of Code Section 9-11-58 and that are transmitted to the commission by the
 289 Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority in a format and media agreed to
 290 by the commission and the authority;
- 291 (4) Compile the civil filings and dispositions data, and provide such data to the Administrative Office of the Courts;

293 (5)(3) Participate in agreements, contracts, and networks necessary or convenient for the 294 performance of the duties specified in this paragraph and paragraphs paragraph (2), (3), 295 and (4) of this subsection and for the release of the information from civil case filing and 296 disposition forms; (6)(4) Administer federal, state, local, and other public or private funds made available 297 298 to it for implementation of the courts automation system; (7)(5) Coordinate state-wide strategies and plans for incorporating county and local 299 governments into the courts automation system, including review of requirements of the 300 301 several state agencies for documents, reports, and forms and the consolidation, 302 elimination, or conversion of such documents, reports, and forms to formats compatible 303 with electronic transmittal media; 304 (8)(6) Establish policies and procedures, rules and regulations, and technical and 305 performance standards for county and local government access to the courts automation 306 system network; and 307 (9)(7) Offer advisory services to county and local governments to assist in guiding their efforts toward automating their court procedures and operations." 308

309 **SECTION 2-5.**

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Said title is further amended by revising paragraphs (17) and (18) of subsection (a) of Code Section 15-6-61, relating to duties of superior court clerks generally, as follows:

"(17) To file and transmit all civil case filing and disposition forms required to be filed pursuant to subsection (b) of Code Section 9-11-3 and subsection (b) of Code Section 9-11-58 and transmit the data contained on such forms to the Administrative Office of the Courts through electronic means provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts for such purpose which shall constitute the only transmission of such data required between the clerks of the superior courts and the Administrative Office of the Courts;

(18)(A) To transmit to the Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority within 30 days of filing the civil case filing and disposition forms prescribed in Code Section 9-11-133.

(B)(18) To electronically collect and transmit to the Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority all data elements required in subsection (g) of Code Section 35-3-36 in a form and format required by the Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority and The Council of Superior Court Clerks of Georgia. The data transmitted to the authority pursuant to this Code section paragraph shall be transmitted to the Georgia Crime Information Center in satisfaction of the clerk's duties under subsection (g) of Code Section 35-3-36 and to the Georgia Courts Automation Commission which shall provide the data to the Administrative Office of the Courts for use of by the state

judicial branch. Public access to said data shall remain the responsibility of the Georgia Crime Information Center. No release of collected data shall be made by or through the authority;"

SECTION 2-6.

Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of Code Section 15-6-94, relating to the Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority, as follows:

- "(3) The purpose of the authority shall be to provide a cooperative for the development, acquisition, and distribution of record management systems, information, services, supplies, and materials for superior court clerks of the state, on such terms and conditions as may be determined to be in the best interest of the operation of the office of the clerk
- of superior court, local government, and the state, in light of the following factors:
 - (A) The public interest in providing cost-efficient access to record management systems, information, services, supplies, and materials, and a pool which will provide related resources and uniformity;
 - (B) Cost savings to local government and the state, through efficiency in the provision of record management systems, information, services, supplies, and materials;
 - (C) Fair and adequate compensation to local governments for costs incurred in the operation of the offices of clerks of superior court; and
 - (D) Such other factors as are in the public interest and welfare.

The authority shall be the sole owner of its compiled and developed information developed through any function performed or any program or system administered on behalf of the authority. For the purposes of this subsection, the authority shall not be considered the sole owner of information developed pursuant to Code Section 15-6-97.1 or Code Section 15-6-97.2 and Article 5 of Chapter 6 of Title 12."

SECTION 2-7.

Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 15-6-97.1, relating to the superior court civil case information system and funding, as follows:

"(a) The Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority and The Council of Superior Court Clerks of Georgia, in agreement with the Georgia Courts Automation Commission and the Administrative Office of the Courts, shall participate in the development and operation of the civil case filing and disposition information system described in paragraph (4) of Code Section 15-5-24 and paragraphs (2), (3), (4), and (5) of subsection (a) of Code Section 15-5-82. The authority shall provide such data in electronic format to the Georgia Courts Automation Commission within three days of receipt. The media and format shall be determined by the authority and the commission.

364 (b) The authority shall have the power to use funds available and participate in agreements, contracts, and networks necessary or convenient for the performance of the duties described in subsection (a) of this Code section Reserved."

SECTION 2-8.

- Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 15-7-50, relating to the authority of the clerks of state courts, as follows:
- 370 "15-7-50.
- 371 Clerks of state courts are authorized and directed to:
- 372 (1) File and enter all civil case filing and disposition forms required to be filed pursuant
- 373 to subsection (b) of Code Section 9-11-3 and subsection (b) of Code Section 9-11-58;
- 374 (2) Transmit to the Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority within 30 days of filing
- 375 <u>the data contained on</u> the civil case filing and disposition forms prescribed in Code
- 376 Section 9-11-133 to the Administrative Office of the Courts through electronic means
- provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts for such purpose which shall
- 378 constitute the only transmission of such data required between the clerks of the state
- 379 <u>courts and the Administrative Office of the Courts</u>; and
- 380 (3) Participate in agreements, contracts, and networks necessary or convenient for the
- performance of the duties provided in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Code section."

382 **SECTION 2-9.**

- 383 Article 1 of Chapter 9 of Title 19 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
- 384 general provisions for child custody proceedings, is amended by revising Code Section
- 385 19-9-1.2, relating to the required domestic relations case filing information form, as follows:
- 386 "19-9-1.2.
- Pursuant to Code Section 9-11-3, and in addition to the filing requirements contained in
- Code Section 19-6-15, in all proceedings under this article the plaintiff shall file a domestic
- relations case filing information form as set forth in Code Section 9-11-133 prescribed by
- 390 <u>the Judicial Council of Georgia."</u>
- 391 **SECTION 2-10.**
- 392 Said article is further amended by revising subsection (h) of Code Section 19-9-3, relating
- 393 to discretion of judge in child custody disputes and filing of domestic relations final
- 394 disposition form, as follows:
- 395 "(h) In addition to filing requirements contained in Code Section 19-6-15, upon the
- 396 conclusion of any proceeding under this article, the domestic relations final disposition

397	form as set forth in Code Section 9-11-133 prescribed by the Judicial Council of Georgia
398	shall be filed."
399	PART III
400	SECTION 3-1.
401	This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2018.
402	SECTION 3-2.
403	All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.

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