

1 SB358
2 175593-1
3 By Senators Albritton and Pittman
4 RFD: Judiciary
5 First Read: 15-MAR-16

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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would create the position of
9 senior status judge for retired circuit and
10 district judges. This bill would provide for the
11 duties and compensation of a senior status judge.

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13 A BILL
14 TO BE ENTITLED
15 AN ACT
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17 To create the position of senior status judge; to
18 provide that a retired circuit or district judge may request
19 to serve as a senior status judge; to provide for the
20 assignment and acceptance of cases by a senior status judge;
21 and to provide for the duties and compensation of a senior
22 status judge.

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

24 Section 1. (a) There is created the position of
25 senior status judge. A senior status judge is a retired
26 circuit or district judge who continuously presides over a

1 reduced docket. A senior status judge may work at a
2 one-quarter, one-third, or one-half rate.

3 (b) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a
4 senior status judge shall receive his or her full retirement
5 benefits and, in addition, shall be compensated at a rate
6 equal to one-quarter, one-third, or one-half of the starting
7 salary for a circuit or district judge depending upon the
8 level of docket the senior status judge elects to maintain.

9 (c) A senior status judge shall not be entitled to
10 any additional retirement or other benefits for the time he or
11 she serves as a senior status judge.

12 Section 2. (a) A request to be considered a senior
13 status judge may be made to the Administrative Office of
14 Courts and the presiding circuit judge for the judicial
15 circuit in which the retired judge wishes to work.

16 (b) A request to become a senior status judge shall
17 be approved by the Administrative Office of Courts and the
18 appropriate presiding circuit judge.

19 (c) The approval of a request to serve as a senior
20 status judge shall include the percentage of a normal docket
21 that will be maintained by the senior status judge.

22 (d) The approval of a request to serve as a senior
23 status judge shall be valid for a two-year period. The request
24 to serve as a senior status judge may be renewed at the end of
25 the initial two-year period with the consent of the person
26 serving, the appropriate presiding circuit judge, and the
27 Administrative Office of Courts.

1 Section 3. The Administrative Office of Courts, in
2 conjunction with all presiding circuit judges, shall adopt
3 rules to ensure that cases are assigned in the appropriate
4 manner and percentage to senior status judges. No person shall
5 be allowed to serve as a senior status judge pursuant to this
6 act until the rules required by this section have been
7 adopted.

8 Section 4. A person serving as a senior status judge
9 shall be prohibited from engaging in the practice of law and
10 shall be subject to Chapter 25 of Title 36, Code of Alabama
11 1975, the Cannons of Judicial Ethics, and all other relevant
12 standards applicable to a regular sitting circuit or district
13 judge.

14 Section 5. This act shall become effective
15 immediately following its passage and approval by the
16 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.