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The House Committee on Judiciary Non-civil offers the following substitute to HB 316:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Code Section 17-12-27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the appointment of assistant public defenders, so as to provide for an assistant public defender for the juvenile division within each circuit public defender office; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Code Section 17-12-27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the appointment of assistant public defenders, is amended by striking subsection (a) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“(a) Subject to the provisions of this Code section, the circuit public defender in each judicial circuit is authorized to appoint:

(1) One assistant public defender for each superior court judge authorized for the circuit, excluding the chief judge and senior judges; ~~and~~

(2) One assistant public defender for each full-time juvenile court judge authorized for the circuit and in those circuits where there is no full-time juvenile court judge, one assistant public defender for the juvenile division in that circuit; and

(3) Subject to funds being appropriated by the General Assembly or otherwise available, additional assistant public defenders as may be authorized by the council. In authorizing additional assistant public defenders, the council shall consider the caseload, present staff, and resources available to each circuit public defender; and shall make authorizations as will contribute to the efficiency of individual circuit public defenders and the effectiveness of providing adequate legal defense for indigent defendants. ✓

SECTION 2.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.