

House Bill 1246

By: Representatives Bulloch of the 180th and Sholar of the 179th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating the Board of Commissioners of Thomas County, approved
2 December 21, 1898 (Ga. L. 1898, p. 378), as amended, so as to so as to reconstitute the
3 board of commissioners; to change the description of the commissioner districts; to provide
4 for definitions and inclusions; to provide for continuation in office of current members; to
5 provide for election and terms of office of subsequent members; to provide for submission
6 of this Act for approval under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to provide
7 for effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 An Act creating the Board of Commissioners of Thomas County, approved December 21,
11 1898 (Ga. L. 1898, p. 378), as amended, is amended by striking subsections (d) and (e) of
12 Section 1 and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

13 "(d) For purposes of electing members of the board of commissioners, Thomas County is
14 divided into eight commissioner districts. The eight commissioner districts shall be and
15 correspond to those eight numbered districts described in and attached to and made a part
16 of this Act and further identified as Plan Name: thomaswk3 Plan Type: Local User: staff
17 Administrator: Thomas.

18 (e) When used in such attachment, the terms 'Tract' and 'BG' (Block Group) shall mean
19 and describe the same geographical boundaries as provided in the report of the Bureau of
20 the Census for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia. The
21 separate numeric designations in a Tract description which are underneath a 'BG' heading
22 shall mean and describe individual Blocks within a Block Group as provided in the report
23 of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of
24 Georgia. Any part of Thomas County which is not included in any such district described
25 in that attachment shall be included within that district contiguous to such part which
26 contains the least population according to the United States decennial census of 2000 for

1 the State of Georgia. Any part of Thomas County which is described in that attachment
2 as being in a particular district shall nevertheless not be included within such district if such
3 part is not contiguous to such district. Such noncontiguous part shall instead be included
4 within that district contiguous to such part which contains the least population according
5 to the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia. Except as otherwise
6 provided in the description of any commissioner district, whenever the description of such
7 district refers to a named city, it shall mean the geographical boundaries of that city as
8 shown on the census map for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of
9 Georgia."

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SECTION 2.

11 (a) Those members of the Board of Commissioners of Thomas County who are serving as
12 such on June 1, 2002, and any person selected to fill a vacancy in any such office shall
13 continue to serve as such members until the regular expiration of their respective terms of
14 office and upon the election and qualification of their respective successors.

15 (b) Commissioner Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, as they exist immediately prior to June
16 1, 2002, shall continue to be designated as Commissioner Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8,
17 respectively, but as newly described under this Act, and on and after June 1, 2002, such
18 members of the board serving from those former commissioner districts shall be deemed to
19 be serving from and representing their respective districts as newly described under this Act.

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SECTION 3.

21 It shall be the duty of the attorney of the Board of Commissioners of Thomas County to
22 submit this Act for approval pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965,
23 as amended.

24

SECTION 4.

25 This section and Section 3 of this Act and those provisions of this Act necessary for the
26 election of members of the Board of Commissioners of Thomas County in 2002 shall become
27 effective upon the approval of this Act by the Governor or upon its becoming law without
28 such approval. The remaining provisions of this Act shall become effective June 1, 2002.

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SECTION 5.

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