

House Bill 1241

By: Representative Channell of the 111th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating a board of commissioners for Putnam County, approved
2 September 8, 1879 (Ga. L. 1878-79, p. 334), as amended, particularly by an Act approved
3 August 12, 1921 (Ga. L. 1921, p. 555), as amended, so as to revise the districts for the
4 election of members of the board of commissioners; to provide for definitions and inclusions;
5 to provide for vacancies; to provide for submission of this Act for preclearance pursuant to
6 Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to provide for related
7 matters; 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 a board of commissioners for Putnam County, approved September 8, 1879
11 (Ga. L. 1878-79, p. 334), as amended, particularly by an Act approved August 12, 1921
12 (Ga. L. 1921, p. 555), as amended, is amended by striking Sections 2 and 3 of the 1921 Act
13 and inserting in lieu thereof new Sections 2 and 3 to read as follows:

14 **"SECTION 2.**

15 (a) The board of commissioners of Putnam County shall be composed of five members.
16 Except for the chairperson, the members of the board shall be residents of the
17 commissioner districts they represent by at least the last date on which a candidate for
18 nomination in a political party primary may qualify in the year of the election, shall
19 continue to reside in their respective districts, and shall be elected by the qualified electors
20 voting within their respective commissioner districts. The chairperson shall be a resident
21 of Putnam County and shall be elected by the qualified voters of the entire county.

22 (b) For the purpose of electing the four members of the board from commissioner districts,
23 Putnam County shall be divided into four commissioner districts. One member of the
24 board shall be elected from each such district. Those districts shall be and correspond to
25 those four numbered districts described in and attached to and made a part of this Act and

1 further identified as Plan Name: putwk6 Plan Type: Local User: Angela Administrator:
2 Putnam.

3 (c) When used in such attachment, the terms 'Tract' and 'BG' (Block Group) shall mean
4 and describe the same geographical boundaries as provided in the report of the Bureau of
5 the Census for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia. The
6 separate numeric designations in a Tract description which are underneath a 'BG' heading
7 shall mean and describe individual Blocks within a Block Group as provided in the report
8 of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of
9 Georgia. Any part of Putnam County which is not included in any such district described
10 in that attachment shall be included within that district contiguous to such part which
11 contains the least population according to the United States decennial census of 2000 for
12 the State of Georgia. Any part of Putnam County which is described in that attachment as
13 being in a particular district shall nevertheless not be included within such district if such
14 part is not contiguous to such district. Such noncontiguous part shall instead be included
15 within that district contiguous to such part which contains the least population according
16 to the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia. Except as otherwise
17 provided in the description of any district, whenever the description of such district refers
18 to a named city, it shall mean the geographical boundaries of that city as shown on the
19 census map for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia.

20 SECTION 3.

21 (a) In the event that any member elected from a district ceases to be a resident of his or her
22 respective commissioner district during his or her term of office, a vacancy shall be created
23 and shall be filled as provided by law. All members shall be nominated and elected in
24 accordance with the provisions of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the 'Georgia
25 Election Code,' as now or hereafter amended.

26 (b) The members of the board holding office on the effective date of this section and any
27 persons selected to fill vacancies in such offices shall serve out the terms of office to which
28 they were elected and until their successors are elected and qualified.

29 (c) The first members of the reconstituted board of commissioners of Putnam County shall
30 be elected in the general election in November, 2004. Such members shall take office on
31 January 1 following their election for terms of four years and until their successors are
32 elected and qualified.

33 (d) The first chairperson of the reconstituted board of commissioners of Putnam County
34 shall be elected by all of the qualified voters of Putnam County voting in the general
35 election in November, 2004. Such chairperson shall take office on January 1 following his

1 or her election for a term of four years and until his or her successor is elected and
2 qualified.

3 (e) Successors to members elected under subsections (c) and (d) of this section shall be
4 elected at the general election next preceding the expiration of such terms of office and
5 shall take office on January 1 following their election for terms of four years and until their
6 successors are elected and qualified.

7 (f) Commissioner Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4 as they exist immediately prior to the effective
8 date of this Act shall continue to be designated as Commissioner Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4,
9 respectively, but as newly described under this Act, and, on and after the effective date of
10 this Act, such members of the board serving from those former commissioner districts shall
11 be deemed to be serving from and representing their respective districts as newly described
12 under this section."

13 **SECTION 2.**

14 It shall be the duty of the attorney of the governing authority of Putnam County to submit
15 this Act for approval pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as
16 amended.

17 **SECTION 3.**

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