

House Bill 1503

By: Representative Birdsong of the 123rd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating a Board of Commissioners of Wilkinson County, approved
2 February 28, 1933 (Ga. L. 1933, p. 777), as amended, particularly by an Act approved March
3 4, 1993 (Ga. L. 1993, p. 3897), so as to reapportion the commissioner districts; to define
4 certain terms; to provide for members currently serving; to provide for the submission of this
5 Act to the United States Department of Justice; to provide for related matters; to provide
6 effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 An Act creating a Board of Commissioners of Wilkinson County, approved February 28,
10 1933 (Ga. L. 1933, p. 777), as amended, particularly by an Act approved March 4, 1993 (Ga.
11 L. 1993, p. 3897), is amended by striking in its entirety subsections (a) and (b) of Section 2
12 and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

13 **"SECTION 2.**

14 (a) The chairperson of the board of commissioners may reside anywhere within Wilkinson
15 County and shall be elected by a majority of the qualified electors of Wilkinson County
16 voting at the elections hereinafter provided for in this Act. Any person offering as a
17 candidate for chairperson shall have been a resident of said county for at least two years
18 immediately preceding the date of the election and shall remain a resident during the term
19 of office. The chairperson and all other members shall be at least 21 years of age as of the
20 date of taking office. For the purpose of electing the other four members of the board,
21 Wilkinson County shall be divided into four commissioner districts. The four
22 commissioner districts shall be and correspond to those four numbered districts described
23 in and attached to and made a part of this Act and further identified as Plan Name:
24 wilkinsonwk1 Plan Type: LOCAL User: Gina Administrator: WILKINSON.

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

19 SECTION 2.

20 It is the purpose of this Act to reapportion the districts from which members of the board of
21 commissioners of Wilkinson County are to be elected in the November, 2002, general
22 election and in subsequent general elections, and this Act results from changes in population
23 based on the United States decennial census of 2000. It is not the intention of the General
24 Assembly to affect the membership of current members of the board, their terms of office,
25 or the manner in which their successors shall be elected, and such matters shall remain as
26 provided by law on the effective date of this Act until otherwise amended by law, except to
27 the extent of reapportioning the districts represented by such members.

28 SECTION 3.

29 It shall be the duty of the attorney of the board of commissioners of Wilkinson County to
30 submit this Act for approval pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965,
31 as amended.

32 SECTION 4.

33 The provisions of this Act relating to and necessary for the regular election in 2002 of
34 members of the board of commissioners of Wilkinson County shall become effective upon

- 1 its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming effective without such approval; and this
- 2 Act shall otherwise become effective January 1, 2003.

3 **SECTION 5.**

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