

House Bill 1534

By: Representative Channell of the 111th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act to change the method of electing members for the Board of Education of
2 Putnam County, approved March 27, 1972 (Ga. L. 1972, p. 2678), as amended, so as to
3 revise the districts for the election of members of the board of education; to provide for
4 definitions and inclusions; to provide for vacancies; to provide for submission of this Act for
5 preclearance pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to
6 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 An Act to change the method of electing members for the Board of Education of Putnam
10 County, approved March 27, 1972 (Ga. L. 1972, p. 2678), is amended by striking Sections
11 1 and 2 in their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof new Sections 1 and 2 to read as follows:

12 "SECTION 1.

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

20 (b) For the purpose of electing the four members of the board from districts, Putnam
21 County shall be divided into four education districts. One member of the board shall be
22 elected from each such district. Those districts shall be and correspond to those four
23 numbered districts described in and attached to and made a part of this Act and further
24 identified as Plan Name: putwk6 Plan Type: Local User: Angela Administrator: Putnam.

1 (c) 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 Putnam County which is not included in any such district described
8 in that attachment shall be included within that district contiguous to such part which
9 contains the least population according to the United States decennial census of 2000 for
10 the State of Georgia. Any part of Putnam County which is described in that attachment as
11 being in a particular district shall nevertheless not be included within such district if such
12 part is not contiguous to such district. Such noncontiguous part shall instead be included
13 within that district contiguous to such part which contains the least population according
14 to the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia. Except as otherwise
15 provided in the description of any district, whenever the description of such district refers
16 to a named city, it shall mean the geographical boundaries of that city as shown on the
17 census map for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia.

18 SECTION 2.

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

24 (b) Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the Board of Education of Putnam
25 County, for any cause whatsoever, shall be filled by the majority vote of the remaining
26 members of the board of education and any person so elected shall serve for the remainder
27 of the unexpired term of office of the member who created such vacancy.

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

31 (d) The first members of the reconstituted Board of Education of Putnam County from
32 Education Districts 2 and 4 shall be elected in the general election in November, 2002.
33 Such members shall take office on January 1 following their election for terms of four
34 years and until their successors are elected and qualified. The first members of the
35 reconstituted Board of Education of Putnam County from Education Districts 1 and 3 shall
36 be elected in the general election in November, 2004. Such members shall take office on

1 January 1 following their election for terms of four years and until their successors are
2 elected and qualified.

3 (e) The first chairperson of the reconstituted Board of Education of Putnam County shall
4 be elected by all of the qualified voters of Putnam County voting in the general election in
5 November, 2004. Such chairperson shall take office on January 1 following his or her
6 election for a term of four years and until his or her successor is elected and qualified.

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

11 (g) On the effective date of this section, the member of the board representing Education
12 District 1 as it exists immediately prior to the effective date of this Act, Doris Clements,
13 shall be deemed to be serving from and representing Education District 4 as newly
14 described under this Act. On the effective date of this section, the member of the board
15 representing Education District 2 as it exists immediately prior to the effective date of this
16 Act, Johnnie Penn, shall be deemed to be serving from and representing Education
17 District 2 as newly described under this Act. On the effective date of this section, the
18 member of the board representing Education District 3 as it exists immediately prior to the
19 effective date of this Act, Tony Clack, shall be deemed to be serving from and representing
20 Education District 1 as newly described under this Act. On the effective date of this
21 section, the member of the board representing Education District 4 as it exists immediately
22 prior to the effective date of this Act, Tony Franklin, shall be deemed to be serving from
23 and representing Education District 3 as newly described under this Act."

24 **SECTION 2.**

25 It shall be the duty of the attorney for the Board of Education of Putnam County to submit
26 this Act for approval pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as
27 amended.

28 **SECTION 3.**

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