

Senate Bill 431

By: Senator Brush of the 24th

**AS PASSED SENATE**

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT**

To amend an Act creating a new board of commissioners of Columbia County, approved March 21, 1980 (Ga. L. 1980, p. 3707), as amended, so as to provide for the election and terms of office of members of such board; to provide for the filling of vacancies; to provide for the powers and duties of the chairperson; to provide for standing committees of the board; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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

**SECTION 1.**

An Act creating a new board of commissioners of Columbia County, approved March 21, 1980 (Ga. L. 1980, p. 3707), as amended, is amended by striking subsection (b) of Section 2 and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) At the general election in November 2002, the chairperson and the member of the board from Commissioner District 1 shall be elected and shall take office on the first day of January following their election for terms of four years. At the general election in November 2004, members from Commissioner Districts 2 and 3 shall be elected and shall take office on the first day of January following their election for terms of four years. At the general election in November 2004, a member from Commissioner District 4 shall be elected and shall take office on the first day of January following his or her election for a term of two years. Thereafter, successors shall be elected in the general election immediately preceding the expiration of the term of office, shall take office on the first day of January following their election, and shall serve for terms of four years and until their successors are elected and qualified. In order to be elected as a member of the board of commissioners from a commissioner district, a candidate shall be a bona fide resident of such district. One member of the board shall be elected by the qualified voters of that commissioner district. The chairperson of the board of commissioners may reside anywhere within Columbia County and, if elected, must receive the number of votes cast for that office, as required by general law, in the entire county. The chairperson must

1 continue to reside within the county during that person's term of office, or that office shall  
2 become vacant."

3 **SECTION 2.**

4 Said Act is further amended by striking Section 3 and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

5 "SECTION 3.

6 (a) In the event a vacancy occurs in the office of chairperson by reason of death,  
7 resignation, disability, or from any other cause, it shall be the duty of the board of  
8 commissioners to notify the election superintendent of Columbia County who shall  
9 immediately call a special election in order to fill such vacancy. The special election shall  
10 be held in accordance with the provisions of Code Section 21-2-540 of the O.C.G.A.

11 (b) At the first meeting in January of each year, the commissioners shall also elect one of  
12 their number to serve as vice chairperson of the board of commissioners for the ensuing  
13 calendar year, who shall preside at board meetings in the absence of the chairperson."

14 **SECTION 3.**

15 Said Act is further amended by striking Section 10 and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

16 "SECTION 10.

17 The chairperson of the board of commissioners shall:

18 (1) Conduct all meetings of the board of commissioners in accordance with county  
19 ordinances heretofore or hereafter enacted;

20 (2) Prepare and present the agenda for each meeting of the board of commissioners;

21 (3) Cause the clerk of the board of commissioners or such other department head so  
22 designated by the board of commissioners to keep accurate minutes and records of each  
23 meeting of the board and cause the same to be bound and kept in a permanent form;

24 (4) Appoint a chairperson for each standing committee of the board of commissioners;

25 (5) Nominate candidates for county administrator for approval by the board of  
26 commissioners;

27 (6) Represent Columbia County or appoint a designee to represent Columbia County at  
28 all official functions which call for a representative from Columbia County; and

29 (7) Execute all contracts or other agreements on behalf of the county."

**SECTION 4.**

Said Act is further amended by striking Section 11 and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

**"SECTION 11.**

The board of commissioners by ordinance duly adopted shall create such standing committees as the board shall deem necessary and appropriate. The chairperson, at the first meeting in January of each year, shall appoint a chairperson and one member to each of such committees. The chairperson may, from time to time and as required, create other committees and assign thereto duties and powers necessary to carry out their functions. In the event such other committees are created, the chairperson of the board shall appoint a chairperson and one member to each of such committees."

**SECTION 5.**

Said Act is further amended by striking Section 13 and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

**"SECTION 13.**

The chairperson of the board of commissioners shall be a voting member of each standing committee created by the board of commissioners."

**SECTION 6.**

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