

House Bill 1566

By: Representative Lane of the 146th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To provide for the election of members of the board of education of Screven County; to
2 revise the districts for the election of members of the board of education; to provide for
3 definitions and inclusions; to provide for the filling of vacancies; to provide for
4 qualifications; to provide compensation for members of the board; to provide for the election
5 of a chairperson; to provide for related matters; to provide for submission of this Act for
6 preclearance pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to
7 provide for related matters; to provide effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
8 other purposes.

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

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 (a) For the purpose of electing members of the board of education of Screven County, the
12 Screven County School District shall be divided into seven education districts. One member
13 of the board shall be elected from each district. The districts shall be and correspond to those
14 seven numbered districts described in and attached to and made a part of this Act and further
15 identified as Plan Name: screvencsb1 Plan Type: Local User: staff Administrator:
16 Screven.

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

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

8 **SECTION 2.**

9 (a) To be eligible to be elected to membership on the board of education, a person shall be
10 a registered elector of Screven County eligible to vote for members of the General Assembly
11 and shall have resided in Screven County for a period of at least one year immediately
12 preceding the date of such person's election and in the education district from which the
13 person is offering for election for a period of at least six months immediately preceding the
14 date of such person's election. The members of the board of education shall be elected by
15 the qualified electors voting within their respective education districts.

16 (b) In the event of a vacancy on the board of education for any reason other than the
17 expiration of the term of office, the vacancy shall be filled in accordance with the provisions
18 of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the "Georgia Election Code," and the residency
19 requirements set forth in this Act. In the event that a member of the board of education
20 ceases to be a resident of the education district from which such member was elected, a
21 vacancy shall exist and shall be filled in the same manner as other vacancies are filled.

22 **SECTION 3.**

23 At its first meeting each year, the members of the board of education shall elect, by majority
24 vote, one of their members to serve as chairperson for that year and until the election of a
25 chairperson in the subsequent year. A member shall be eligible to succeed himself or herself
26 as a member of the board and also as chairperson of the board.

27 **SECTION 4.**

28 (a) The members of the board of education who were elected at the general election in
29 November 1998 shall continue in office for the terms to which they were elected and until
30 successors are elected and qualified as provided in this Act. The members of the board of
31 education who were elected at the general election in November 2000 shall continue in office
32 for the terms to which they were elected and until successors are elected and qualified as
33 provided in this Act.

1 (b) The first members of the reconstituted board of education of Screven County from
2 Education Districts 1, 4, and 7 shall be elected at the state-wide general election in 2002.
3 Such members shall take office on January 1 following their election for terms of four years
4 and until their successors are elected and qualified.

5 (c) The first members of the reconstituted board of education of Screven County from
6 Education Districts 2, 3, 5, and 6 shall be elected at the state-wide general election in 2004.
7 Such members shall take office on January 1 following their election for terms of four years
8 and until their successors are elected and qualified.

9 (d) Successors to members elected under subsections (b) and (c) of this section shall be
10 elected at the state-wide general election next preceding the expiration of such terms of office
11 and shall take office on January 1 following their election for terms of four years and until
12 their successors are elected and qualified.

13 (e) Education Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 as they existed on January 1, 2002, shall
14 continue to be designated as Education Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, respectively, but as
15 newly described under this Act, and, on and after the effective date of this Act, such
16 members of the board serving from those former education districts shall be deemed to be
17 serving from and representing their respective districts as newly described under this Act.

18 **SECTION 5.**

19 Members of the board of education of Screven County shall be compensated in the amount
20 of \$50.00 for each day of attendance at meetings of the board and while meeting and
21 traveling within or outside the state as an agent of the board or as a member of a committee
22 of the board on official business first authorized by a majority of the board, plus
23 reimbursement for actual expenses necessarily incurred in connection therewith.

24 **SECTION 6.**

25 It shall be the duty of the attorney of the board of education of Screven County to submit this
26 Act for approval pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended.

27 **SECTION 7.**

28 The provisions of this Act relating to and necessary for the regular election in 2002 of
29 members of the board of education of Screven County shall become effective upon its
30 approval by the Governor or upon its becoming effective without such approval; and this Act
31 shall otherwise become effective January 1, 2003.

32 **SECTION 8.**

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