

House Bill 1594

By: Representative Bell of the 25<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act providing a new charter for the City of Jefferson, approved April 13, 2001  
2 (Ga. L. 2001, p. 3940), so as to change the description of the council districts; to provide for  
3 definitions and inclusions; to provide for continuation in office of current members; to  
4 change certain provisions regarding qualifications and elections by changing certain  
5 references from wards to council districts; to provide for submission of this Act for approval  
6 under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to provide an effective date; to  
7 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 An Act providing a new charter for the City of Jefferson, approved April 13, 2001 (Ga. L.  
11 2001, p. 3940), is amended by striking subsections (b) and (c) of Section 2.10 and inserting  
12 in their place new subsections (b), (c), (d), and (e) to read as follows:

13 "(b) Those members of the city council of Jefferson who are serving as such on December  
14 31, 2002, and any person selected to fill a vacancy in any such office shall continue to  
15 serve as such members until the regular expiration of their respective terms of office and  
16 upon the election and qualification of their respective successors. On and after January 1,  
17 2003, the city council of Jefferson shall consist of five members all of whom shall be  
18 elected from council districts described in subsection (c) of this section except for the  
19 mayor who is elected at large.

20 (c) For purposes of electing members of the city council, other than the mayor, the City  
21 of Jefferson is divided into five council districts. One member of the city council shall be  
22 elected from each such district. The five council districts shall be and correspond to those  
23 five numbered districts described in and attached to and made a part of this Act and further  
24 identified as Plan Name: jeffp2 Plan Type: Local User: Gina Administrator: Jefferson.

25 (d) When used in such attachment, the terms 'Tract' and 'BG' (Block Group) shall mean  
26 and describe the same geographical boundaries as provided in the report of the Bureau of

1 the Census for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia. The  
2 separate numeric designations in a Tract description which are underneath a 'BG' heading  
3 shall mean and describe individual Blocks within a Block Group as provided in the report  
4 of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of  
5 Georgia. Any part of the City of Jefferson which is not included in any such district  
6 described in that attachment shall be included within that district contiguous to such part  
7 which contains the least population according to the United States decennial census of 2000  
8 for the State of Georgia. Any part of the City of Jefferson which is described in that  
9 attachment as being in a particular district shall nevertheless not be included within such  
10 district if such part is not contiguous to such district. Such noncontiguous part shall instead  
11 be included within that district contiguous to such part which contains the least population  
12 according to the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia.

13 (e) The five council posts representing Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, as they exist on December  
14 31, 2002, shall be redesignated as Council Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, respectively, and as  
15 newly described under this Act, and on and after January 1, 2003, such members of the  
16 council serving from those former wards shall be deemed to be serving from and  
17 representing their respective council districts as newly described under this Act."

## 18 SECTION 2.

19 Said Act if further amended by striking subsection (b) of Section 2.11 and inserting in its  
20 place a new subsection (b) to read as follows:

21 "(b) Candidates for Council Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 must at the time of qualification and  
22 during their term of service reside within the respective council district which each seeks  
23 to represent."

## 24 SECTION 3.

25 Said Act is further amended by striking subsection (b) of Section 5.11 and inserting in its  
26 place a new subsection (b) to read as follows:

27 "(b) There shall be elected the mayor and councilmembers from Council Districts 2 and  
28 4 at one election and at every other election thereafter. The remaining city council seats  
29 for Council Districts 1, 3, and 5 shall be filled at the election alternating with the first  
30 election so that a continuing body is created. The mayor and each councilmember shall  
31 serve four-year terms, or until their successors are duly elected and qualified."

1 **SECTION 4.**

2 It shall be the duty of the attorney of the governing authority of the City of Jefferson to  
3 submit this Act for approval pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965,  
4 as amended.

5 **SECTION 5.**

6 This Act shall become effective January 1, 2003.

7 **SECTION 6.**

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