

House Bill 1527 (AM)

By: Representative Lane of the 146<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act for the election and creation of a board of commissioners for Screven  
2 County, approved December 9, 1871 (Ga. L. 1871-72, p. 231), as amended, particularly by  
3 an Act approved August 19, 1912 (Ga. L. 1912, p. 456), by an Act approved August 16, 1915  
4 (Ga. L. 1915, p. 345), and by an Act approved April 3, 1972 (Ga. L. 1972, p. 3495), so as to  
5 provide for the election of members of the board of commissioners of Screven County; to  
6 revise the districts for the election of members of the board of commissioners; to provide for  
7 definitions and inclusions; to provide for the filling of vacancies; to provide for  
8 qualifications; to provide for the election of a chairperson; to provide for related matters; to  
9 provide for submission of this Act for preclearance pursuant to Section 5 of the federal  
10 Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to provide for related matters; to provide effective  
11 dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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

13 **SECTION 1.**

14 An Act for the election and creation of a board of commissioners for Screven County,  
15 approved December 9, 1871 (Ga. L. 1871-72, p. 231), as amended, particularly by an Act  
16 approved August 19, 1912 (Ga. L. 1912, p. 456), by an Act approved August 16, 1915  
17 (Ga. L. 1915, p. 345), and by an Act approved April 3, 1972 (Ga. L. 1972, p. 3495), is  
18 amended by striking Section 2 and inserting in lieu thereof a new Section 2 to read as  
19 follows:

20 **"SECTION 2.**

21 (a) The board of commissioners of Screven County shall be composed of seven members.  
22 For the purpose of electing members of the board of commissioners of Screven County,  
23 Screven County shall be divided into seven commissioner districts. One member of the  
24 board shall be elected from each district. The districts shall be and correspond to those  
25 seven numbered districts described in and attached to and made a part of this Act and

1 further identified as Plan Name: screvenccsb1 Plan Type: Local User: staff  
2 Administrator: Screven.

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

20 (c) To be eligible to be elected to membership on the board of commissioners, a person  
21 shall be a registered elector of Screven County eligible to vote for members of the General  
22 Assembly and shall have resided in Screven County for a period of at least one year  
23 immediately preceding the date of such person's election and in the commissioner district  
24 from which the person is offering for election for a period of at least six months  
25 immediately preceding the date of such person's election. The members of the board of  
26 commissioners shall be elected by the qualified electors voting within their respective  
27 commissioner districts.

28 (d) In the event of a vacancy on the board of commissioners for any reason other than the  
29 expiration of the term of office, the vacancy shall be filled in accordance with the  
30 provisions of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the "Georgia Election Code," and the  
31 residency requirements set forth in this Act. In the event that a member of the board of  
32 commissioners ceases to be a resident of the commissioner district from which such  
33 member was elected, a vacancy shall exist and shall be filled in the same manner as other  
34 vacancies are filled.

35 (e) At its first meeting each year, the members of the board of commissioners shall elect,  
36 by majority vote, one of their members to serve as chairperson for that year and until the

1 election of a chairperson in the subsequent year. A member shall be eligible to succeed  
2 himself or herself as a member of the board and also as chairperson of the board.

3 (f) The members of the board of commissioners who were elected at the general election  
4 in November 1998 shall continue in office for the terms to which they were elected and  
5 until successors are elected and qualified as provided in this Act. The members of the  
6 board of commissioners who were elected at the general election in November 2000 shall  
7 continue in office for the terms to which they were elected and until successors are elected  
8 and qualified as provided in this Act.

9 (g) The first members of the reconstituted board of commissioners of Screven County  
10 from Commissioner Districts 1, 4, and 7 shall be elected at the state-wide general election  
11 in 2002. Such members shall take office on January 1 following their election for terms  
12 of four years and until their successors are elected and qualified.

13 (h) The first members of the reconstituted board of commissioners of Screven County  
14 from Commissioner Districts 2, 3, 5, and 6 shall be elected at the state-wide general  
15 election in 2004. Such members shall take office on January 1 following their election for  
16 terms of four years and until their successors are elected and qualified.

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

21 (j) Commissioner Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 as they existed on January 1, 2002, shall  
22 continue to be designated as Commissioner Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, respectively, but  
23 as newly described under this Act, and, on and after the effective date of this Act, such  
24 members of the board serving from those former commissioner districts shall be deemed  
25 to be serving from and representing their respective districts as newly described under this  
26 Act."

## 27 SECTION 2.

28 It shall be the duty of the attorney of the governing authority of Screven County to submit  
29 this Act for approval pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as  
30 amended.

## 31 SECTION 3.

32 The provisions of this Act relating to and necessary for the regular election in 2002 of  
33 members of the board of commissioners of Screven County shall become effective upon its  
34 approval by the Governor or upon its becoming effective without such approval; and this Act  
35 shall otherwise become effective January 1, 2003.

