

House Bill 310

By: Representatives Buckner of the 95<sup>th</sup>, Barnes of the 97<sup>th</sup> and Dodson of the 94<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act providing for the appointment of the chief magistrate of the Magistrate  
2 Court of Clayton County, approved March 21, 1984 (Ga. L. 1984, p. 4411), as amended,  
3 particularly by an Act approved April 2, 1998 (Ga. L. 1998, p. 4262), so as to provide for the  
4 election of the chief magistrate in nonpartisan primaries and elections; to provide for  
5 qualifications for the chief magistrate; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective  
6 date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 An Act providing for the appointment of the chief magistrate of the Magistrate Court of  
10 Clayton County, approved March 21, 1984 (Ga. L. 1984, p. 4411), as amended, particularly  
11 by an Act approved April 2, 1998 (Ga. L. 1998, p. 4262), is amended by striking subsection  
12 (a) of Section 2 and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

13 "(a) In accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of Code Section 21-2-139 of the  
14 O.C.G.A., the ~~The~~ chief magistrate shall be elected by the voters of Clayton County at the  
15 general election next preceding the expiration of the term of the incumbent chief magistrate  
16 in a ~~partisan~~ nonpartisan primary and election ~~in the same manner as county officers are~~  
17 ~~elected~~ for a four-year term beginning on the first day of January following his or her  
18 election, as provided for in subsection (d) of Code Section 15-10-20 of the O.C.G.A.  
19 Successors of the chief magistrate shall likewise be elected quadrennially thereafter for  
20 terms beginning on the first day of January following their election. In addition to any  
21 other qualification required by law, the chief magistrate shall have been an active attorney  
22 member in good standing of the State Bar of Georgia for at least ~~four~~ seven years prior to  
23 taking office and shall retain such membership as long as he or she remains in office."

1 **SECTION 2.**

2 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
3 without such approval.

4 **SECTION 3.**

5 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.