

House Bill 1661

By: Representative Hudson of the 156th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating the Board of Commissioners of Wilcox County, approved March
2 24, 1939 (Ga. L. 1939, p. 782), as amended, particularly by an Act approved April 7, 1992
3 (Ga. L. 1992, p. 5735), so as to change the description of the commissioner districts; to
4 provide for definitions and inclusions; to provide for continuation in office of current
5 members; to provide for election and terms of office of subsequent members; to provide for
6 submission of this Act for approval under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as
7 amended; to provide for effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 An Act creating the Board of Commissioners of Wilcox County, approved March 24, 1939
11 (Ga. L. 1939, p. 782), as amended, particularly by an Act approved April 7, 1992 (Ga. L.
12 1992, p. 5735), is amended by striking Section 2 and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

13 "SECTION 2.

14 (a) Those members of the Board of Commissioners of Wilcox County who were serving
15 as such on December 31, 2001, and any person selected to fill a vacancy in any such office
16 shall continue to serve as such members until the regular expiration of their respective
17 terms of office and upon the election and qualification of their respective successors. On
18 and after January 1, 2003, the Board of Commissioners of Wilcox County shall consist of
19 five members all of whom shall be elected from commissioner districts described in
20 subsection (b) of this section.

21 (b) For purposes of electing members of the board of commissioners, Wilcox County is
22 divided into five districts. One member of the board shall be elected from each such
23 district. The five districts shall be and correspond to those five numbered districts
24 described in and attached to and made a part of this Act and further identified as Plan
25 Name: wilcoxwk3 Plan Type: Local User:staff Administrator: Wilcox Co.

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

19 SECTION 2.

20 Said Act is further amended by striking subsections (a) and (b) of Section 3 and inserting in
21 lieu thereof the following:

22 "(a) The members from Districts 1, 3, and 5 shall be elected at the general election on the
23 Tuesday next following the first Monday in November, 2002. Those members of the board
24 elected thereto from Districts 1, 3, and 5 in 2002 shall take office the first day of January
25 immediately following that election and shall serve for initial terms of office which expire
26 December 31, 2006, and upon the election and qualification of their respective successors.
27 The members from Districts 2 and 4 shall be elected at the general election on the Tuesday
28 next following the first Monday in November, 2004. Those members of the board elected
29 thereto from Districts 2 and 4 in 2004 shall take office the first day of January immediately
30 following that election and shall serve for initial terms of office which expire December
31 31, 2006, and upon the election and qualification of their respective successors. Those and
32 all future successors to members of the board whose terms of office are to expire shall be
33 elected at the time of the state-wide general election immediately preceding the expiration
34 of such terms, shall take office the first day of January immediately following that election,
35 and shall serve for terms of office of four years each. Members of the board shall serve for

1 the terms of office specified therefor in this subsection and until their respective successors
2 are elected and qualified.

3 (b) Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, as they existed on December 31, 2001, shall continue to be
4 designated as Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, respectively, but as newly described under this Act,
5 and on and after January 1, 2003, such members of the board serving from those former
6 districts shall be deemed to be serving from and representing their respective districts as
7 newly described under this Act."

8 **SECTION 3.**

9 It shall be the duty of the attorney of the Board of Commissioners of Wilcox County to
10 submit this Act for approval pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965,
11 as amended.

12 **SECTION 4.**

13 This section and Section 2 of this Act and those provisions of this Act necessary for the
14 election of members of the Board of Commissioners of Wilcox County in 2002 shall become
15 effective upon the approval of this Act by the Governor or upon its becoming law without
16 such approval. The remaining provisions of this Act shall become effective January 1, 2003.

17 **SECTION 5.**

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