

Senate Bill 434

By: Senators Johnson of the 1st and Thomas of the 2nd

AS PASSED SENATE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend an Act completely revising the laws relative to the governing authority of Chatham
2 County, approved March 29, 1984 (Ga. L. 1984, p. 5050), as amended, so as to change
3 certain provisions relating to filling of vacancies; to provide for other related matters; to
4 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 An Act completely revising the laws relative to the governing authority of Chatham County,
8 approved March 29, 1984 (Ga. L. 1984, p. 5050), as amended, is amended by striking
9 subsection (c) of Section 7 and inserting in its place a new subsection (c) to read as follows:

10 "(c)(1) A vacancy in the office of chairperson or another member of the board of
11 commissioners occurring prior to the expiration of three-fourths of the term to which
12 elected shall be filled by appointment by the majority vote of the remaining members of
13 the board of commissioners. The appointed person shall serve until the vacated position
14 can be filled by special election. Such election shall be held not less than 45 nor more
15 than 90 days after the vacancy occurs. The person elected shall serve the remainder of
16 the unexpired term.

17 (2) In the event the vacancy occurs after the expiration of three-fourths or more of the
18 term to which elected, the vacancy may be filled by appointment by the majority vote of
19 the remaining members of the board of commissioners. The appointed person shall serve
20 for the remainder of the unexpired term. In the event the board of commissioners does not
21 make an appointment within 120 days after the date the vacancy occurred, the vacancy
22 shall be filled by special election to be held within 45 days of the board's failure to act.

23 (3) When the board of commissioners fills a vacancy in the office of chairperson by
24 appointment, the appointment shall be made from the membership of the board of
25 commissioners. The vacancy thus created in the membership of the board of
26 commissioners shall be filled for the unexpired term by appointment as provided in this
27 subsection.

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1 (4) Whenever a special election can be held concurrently with a general election, the
2 election superintendent shall make every reasonable effort to call the special election so
3 that it may be conducted contemporaneously with the general election."

4 **SECTION 2.**

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