

House Bill 1694

By: Representatives Walker of the 141st, Floyd of the 138th, O'Neal of the 139th and Ray of the 128th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act reconstituting the Board of Education of Houston County, approved March
2 31, 1994 (Ga. L. 1994, p. 4435), as amended, so as to redistrict the Board of Education of
3 Houston County; to change the description of the education districts; to provide for the
4 continuation in office of the current members; to provide for the election and terms of office
5 of subsequent members; to provide for related matters; to provide for a certain submission;
6 to provide an effective date; to provide for applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
7 other purposes.

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

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 An Act reconstituting the Board of Education of Houston County, approved March 31, 1994
11 (Ga. L. 1994, p. 4435), as amended, is amended by striking Section 3 in its entirety and
12 inserting in its place the following:

13 **"SECTION 3.**

14 (a) For the purpose of electing members of the board of education, the Houston County
15 School District shall be divided into five education districts. Education Districts 1
16 through 5 shall consist of the described territory of the Houston County School District
17 attached to this Act and made a part hereof and further identified as 'Plan Name: houswk1
18 Plan Type: Local User: Linda Administrator: Houston'.

19 (b) For purposes of this section:

20 (1) The terms 'Tract' and 'BG' shall mean and describe the same geographical boundaries
21 as provided in the report of the Bureau of Census for the United States decennial census
22 of 2000 for the State of Georgia;

23 (2) The separate numeric designations in a Tract description which are underneath a 'BG'
24 heading shall mean and describe individual Blocks within a Block Group as provided in

1 the report of the Bureau of Census for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the
2 State of Georgia;

3 (3) Any part of the Houston County School District which is not included in any
4 education district described in this section shall be included within that education district
5 contiguous to such part which contains the least population according to the United States
6 decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia; and

7 (4) Any part of the Houston County School District which is described in this section as
8 being included in a particular education district shall nevertheless not be included within
9 such education district if such part is not contiguous to such education district. Such
10 noncontiguous part shall instead be included within that education district contiguous to
11 such part which contains the least population according to the United States decennial
12 census of 2000 for the State of Georgia."

13 SECTION 2.

14 Said Act is further amended by striking Section 4 in its entirety and inserting in its place the
15 following:

16 "SECTION 4.

17 (a) All members of the board of education serving in office on July 1, 2002, shall continue
18 to serve until the expiration of the terms for which they were elected and until their
19 respective successors are elected and qualified unless otherwise removed from office as
20 provided by the Constitution and laws of this state.

21 (b) The at-large offices of the reconstituted Board of Education of Houston County shall
22 be designated as Post 6 and Post 7. The member of the board of education from at-large
23 Post 6 shall be elected at the general election on the Tuesday next following the first
24 Monday in November, 2002. The member of the board of education from at-large Post 7
25 shall be elected at the general election on the Tuesday next following the first Monday in
26 November, 2004. The members of the reconstituted board of education shall be elected to
27 Posts 6 and 7 by the electors of the entire school district. Such members shall take office
28 on January 1 following their election for terms of four years and until their successors are
29 elected and qualified.

30 (c) The members of the reconstituted Board of Education of Houston County from
31 Education Districts 2 and 4 shall be elected at the general election on the Tuesday next
32 following the first Monday in November, 2002. Each candidate for membership on the
33 board from such education district shall be elected by a majority vote of only the qualified
34 voters of such district voting in such election. Such members shall take office on January 1

1 following their election for terms of four years and until their successors are elected and
2 qualified.

3 (d) The members of the reconstituted Board of Education of Houston County from
4 Education Districts 1, 3, and 5 shall be elected at the general election on the Tuesday next
5 following the first Monday in November, 2004. Each candidate for membership on the
6 board from such education district shall be elected by a majority vote of only the qualified
7 voters of such district voting in such election. Such members shall take office on January 1
8 following their election for terms of four years and until their successors are elected and
9 qualified.

10 (e) Successors to members elected under subsections (b), (c), and (d) of this section shall
11 be elected at the general election next preceding the expiration of terms of office and shall
12 take office on January 1 following their election for terms of four years and until their
13 successors are elected and qualified.

14 (f) All members of the board shall be nominated and elected in accordance with Chapter
15 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the 'Georgia Election Code,' in nonpartisan primaries and
16 elections as provided in Code Section 21-2-139 of the O.C.G.A.

17 (g) Each member of the board of education serving in office on July 1, 2002, and elected
18 from former Education District 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 shall on and after said date be deemed to
19 represent new Education District 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 in which he or she resides.

20 (h) At the first meeting of the board in January of each year, the members of the board
21 shall elect their chairperson and other officers to serve for a term of one year as provided
22 by the policy and rules of the board. The board shall provide in its rules for filling a
23 vacancy in the chairperson's office. The vice chairperson selected by the board shall
24 preside at board meetings in the absence of the chairperson and shall have the same right
25 to vote while so presiding as any other member but shall have no other powers of the
26 chairperson.

27 (i) A majority of the board of education shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of
28 business."

29 SECTION 3.

30 It shall be the duty of the attorney for the Board of Education of Houston County to submit
31 this Act for approval pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as
32 amended.

