

House Bill 1697

By: Representatives Hudson of the 156th, Holland of the 157th and Scott of the 165th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating the Board of Commissioners of Tift County, approved August 9,
2 1917 (Ga. L. 1917, p. 396), as amended, particularly by an Act approved February 16, 1994
3 (Ga. L. 1994, p. 3547), so as to change the composition of commissioner districts from which
4 members of the board are elected; to provide for certain definitions; to provide for purpose;
5 to provide for submission of this Act to the United States Attorney General; to provide for
6 related matters; to provide effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 An Act creating the Board of Commissioners of Tift County, approved August 9, 1917 (Ga.
10 L. 1917, p. 396), as amended, particularly by an Act approved February 16, 1994 (Ga. L.
11 1994, p. 3547), is amended by striking Section 2 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof
12 a new Section 2 to read as follows:

13 "SECTION 2.

14 (a) For purposes of electing members of the Board of Commissioners of Tift County, Tift
15 County shall be divided into seven commissioner districts, and six of those districts shall
16 be and correspond to those six numbered districts described in and attached to and made
17 part of this Act and further identified as 'Plan Name: tiftccsbwk3re Plan Type: LOCAL
18 User: staff Administrator: CNTY-TIFT'.

19 (b) Commissioner District 7 shall consist of all of Tift County.

20 (c)(1) For purposes of this section:

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

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

1 provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial
2 census of 2000 for the State of Georgia.

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

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

13 (d) Commissioner Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 as they existed on January 1, 2002, shall
14 continue to be designated as Commissioner Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, respectively, but
15 as newly described under this section on and after the effective date this subsection
16 becomes effective in 2002, and members of the board serving from those former
17 commissioner districts shall be deemed to be serving from and representing their respective
18 districts as newly described under this section."

19 SECTION 2.

20 It is the purpose of this Act to reapportion the districts from which members of the Board of
21 Commissioners of Tift County are to be elected in the November, 2002, general election and
22 in subsequent general elections, and this Act results from changes in population based on the
23 United States decennial census of 2000. It is not the intention of the General Assembly to
24 affect the membership of current members of the board, their terms of office, or the manner
25 in which their successors shall be elected, and such matters shall remain as provided by law
26 on the effective date of this Act until otherwise amended by law, except to the extent of
27 reapportioning the districts represented by such members.

28 SECTION 3.

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

32 SECTION 4.

33 The provisions of this Act relating to and necessary for the regular election in 2002 of
34 members of the Board of Commissioners of Tift County shall become effective upon its

1 approval by the Governor or upon its becoming effective without such approval; and this Act
2 shall otherwise become effective January 1, 2003.

3 **SECTION 5.**

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