

House Bill 1696

By: Representatives Knox of the 28th and Muntean of the 85th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating a board of commissioners of Forsyth County, approved June 30,
2 1964 (Ga. L. 1964, Ex. Sess., p. 2225), as amended, particularly by an Act approved
3 March 24, 1992 (Ga. L. 1992, p. 5029), so as to revise the districts for the election of
4 members of the board of commissioners; to provide for definitions and inclusions; to provide
5 for method of election; to provide for submission of this Act for preclearance pursuant to
6 Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to provide for related
7 matters; 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 a board of commissioners of Forsyth County, approved June 30, 1964
11 (Ga. L. 1964, Ex. Sess., p. 2225), as amended, particularly by an Act approved March 24,
12 1992 (Ga. L. 1992, p. 5029), is amended by striking Section 2 and inserting in lieu thereof
13 a new Section 2 to read as follows:

14 **"SECTION 2.**

15 (a) The board of commissioners of Forsyth County shall consist of five members. For the
16 purpose electing such members, Forsyth County shall be divided into five commissioner
17 districts. The districts shall be and correspond to those five numbered districts described
18 in and attached to and made a part of this Act and further identified as Plan Name:
19 forscsb1 Plan Type: Local User: Gina Administrator: Forsyth.

20 (b) When used in such attachment, the terms 'Tract' and 'BG' (Block Group) shall mean
21 and describe the same geographical boundaries as provided in the report of the Bureau of
22 the Census for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia. The
23 separate numeric designations in a Tract description which are underneath a 'BG' heading
24 shall mean and describe individual Blocks within a Block Group as provided in the report
25 of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of

1 Georgia. Any part of Forsyth County which is not included in any such district described
2 in that attachment shall be included within that district contiguous to such part which
3 contains the least population according to the United States decennial census of 2000 for
4 the State of Georgia. Any part of Forsyth County which is described in that attachment as
5 being in a particular district shall nevertheless not be included within such district if such
6 part is not contiguous to such district. Such noncontiguous part shall instead be included
7 within that district contiguous to such part which contains the least population according
8 to the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia. Except as otherwise
9 provided in the description of any district, whenever the description of such district refers
10 to a named city, it shall mean the geographical boundaries of that city as shown on the
11 census map for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia.

12 (c) There shall be one member of the board from each commissioner district. A
13 commissioner must reside in the commissioner district such person represents. A candidate
14 must designate the district from which such candidate offers. All members of the board of
15 commissioners shall be elected by the voters of the entire county. The election of members
16 of the board shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 2 of Title 21
17 of the O.C.G.A., the 'Georgia Election Code.'

18 (d) The members of the board who were elected at the general election in November 1998
19 shall continue in office for the terms to which they were elected and until successors are
20 elected and qualified as provided in this Act. The members of the board who were elected
21 at the general election in November 2000 shall continue in office for the terms to which
22 they were elected and until successors are elected and qualified as provided in this Act.

23 (e) The first members of the reconstituted board of commissioners of Forsyth County from
24 Commissioner Districts 1 and 3 shall be elected at the general election in November 2002.
25 Such members shall take office on January 1 following their election for terms of four
26 years and until their successors are elected and qualified.

27 (f) The first members of the reconstituted board of commissioners of Forsyth County from
28 Commissioner Districts 2, 4, and 5 shall be elected at the general election in November
29 2004. Such members shall take office on January 1 following their election for terms of
30 four years and until their successors are elected and qualified.

31 (g) Successors to members elected under subsections (e) and (f) of this section shall be
32 elected at the November general election next preceding the expiration of such terms of
33 office and shall take office on January 1 following their election for terms of four years and
34 until their successors are elected and qualified.

35 (h) Commissioner Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 as they existed on January 1, 2002, shall
36 continue to be designated as Commissioner Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, respectively, but as
37 newly described under this Act, and, on and after the effective date of this Act, such

1 members of the board serving from those former commissioner districts shall be deemed
2 to be serving from and representing their respective districts as newly described under this
3 section."

4 **SECTION 2.**

5 It shall be the duty of the attorney of the governing authority of Forsyth County to submit
6 this Act for approval pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as
7 amended.

8 **SECTION 3.**

9 The provisions of this Act relating to and necessary for the regular election in 2002 of
10 members of the board of commissioners of Forsyth County shall become effective upon its
11 approval by the Governor or upon its becoming effective without such approval; and this Act
12 shall otherwise become effective January 1, 2003.

13 **SECTION 4.**

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