

House Bill 1714

By: Representatives Hudson of the 120th and Jackson of the 112th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating a new charter for the City of Thomson, approved March 15, 1973
2 (Ga. L. 1973, p. 2132), as amended, particularly by an Act approved March 13, 1978
3 (Ga. L. 1978, p. 3661), so as to revise the districts for the election of members of the city
4 council; to provide for definitions and inclusions; to provide for manner of election; to
5 provide for submission of this Act for preclearance pursuant to Section 5 of the federal
6 Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
7 laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 An Act creating a new charter for the City of Thomson, approved March 15, 1973
11 (Ga. L. 1973, p. 2132), as amended, particularly by an Act approved March 13, 1978
12 (Ga. L. 1978, p. 3661), is amended by striking Section 2.03 and inserting in lieu thereof a
13 new Section 2.03 to read as follows:

14 "SECTION 2.03.

15 (a) For the purpose of electing the members of the city council, the City of Thomson is
16 hereby divided into three districts which shall be and correspond to those three numbered
17 districts described in and attached to and made a part of this Act and further identified as
18 Plan Name: thomwk1 Plan Type: Local User: staff Administrator: Thomson- City.

19 (b) When used in such attachment, the terms 'Tract' and 'BG' (Block Group) shall mean
20 and describe the same geographical boundaries as provided in the report of the Bureau of
21 the Census for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia. The
22 separate numeric designations in a Tract description which are underneath a 'BG' heading
23 shall mean and describe individual Blocks within a Block Group as provided in the report
24 of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of
25 Georgia. Any part of the City of Thomson which is not included in any such district

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

12 (c) The governing body of the City of Thomson shall continue to consist of a mayor and
13 five councilmembers. Two councilmembers shall be elected from District 1, two
14 councilmembers shall be elected from District 2, and one councilmember shall be elected
15 from District 3. Within Districts 1 and 2, there shall be designated Posts A and B in each
16 district. The mayor shall be elected at large by the qualified voters of the entire city. Each
17 councilmember shall be required to live in the district from which such councilmember is
18 elected and shall be elected solely by the qualified voters residing in such district.
19 Candidates for the council shall designate the district and in the case of Districts 1 and 2,
20 the post for which they are offering for election. The council shall be elected by plurality
21 vote such that the candidate for each post in Districts 1 and 2 who receives the highest
22 number of votes will be elected to the council. In addition, the candidate for mayor who
23 receives the highest number of votes shall be elected mayor and the candidate in District
24 3 who receives the highest number of votes shall be elected to the council from such
25 district.

26 (d) Districts 1, 2, and 3 as they existed on January 1, 2002, shall continue to be designated
27 as Districts 1, 2, and 3, respectively, but as newly described under this section, and, on and
28 after the effective date of this section, such members of the board serving from those
29 former districts shall be deemed to be serving from and representing their respective
30 districts as newly described under this section."

31 SECTION 2.

32 It shall be the duty of the attorney for the governing authority of the City of Thomson to
33 submit this Act for approval pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965,
34 as amended.

1 **SECTION 3.**

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