

House Bill 1776

By: Representatives Forster of the 3rd and Snow of the 2nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating the office of commissioner of Catoosa County, approved
2 February 23, 1943 (Ga. L. 1943, p. 858), as amended, particularly by an Act approved
3 February 6, 1992 (Ga. L. 1992, p. 4501), 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 the office of commissioner of Catoosa County, approved February 23, 1943
11 (Ga. L. 1943, p. 858), as amended, particularly by an Act approved February 6, 1992
12 (Ga. L. 1992, p. 4501), is amended by striking Section 2 and inserting in lieu thereof a new
13 Section 2 to read as follows:

14 "SECTION 2.

15 (a) For the purpose electing members of the board of commissioners, Catoosa County shall
16 be divided into five commissioner districts. Commissioner Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4 shall be
17 and correspond to those four numbered districts described in and attached to and made a
18 part of this Act and further identified as Plan Name: catccsb4 Plan Type: Local User:
19 Angela Administrator: Catoosa. Commissioner District 5 shall be comprised of the entire
20 geographic area of Catoosa County.

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

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

13 **SECTION 2.**

14 Said Act is further amended by striking Section 3 and inserting in lieu thereof a new
 15 Section 3 to read as follows:

16 "SECTION 3.

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

22 (b) The first members of the reconstituted board of commissioners of Catoosa County
 23 from Commissioner Districts 2 and 4 shall be elected at the general election in November
 24 2002. Such members shall take office on January 1 following their election for terms of
 25 four years and until their successors are elected and qualified.

26 (c) The first members of the reconstituted board of commissioners of Catoosa County from
 27 Commissioner Districts 1, 3, and 5 shall be elected at the general election in November
 28 2004. Such members shall take office on January 1 following their election for terms of
 29 four years and until their successors are elected and qualified.

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

34 (e) Commissioner Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 as they existed on January 1, 2002, shall
 35 continue to be designated as Commissioner Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, respectively, but as

1 newly described under this Act, and, on and after the effective date of this Act, such
2 members of the board serving from those former commissioner districts shall be deemed
3 to be serving from and representing their respective districts as newly described under this
4 section."

5 **SECTION 3.**

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

9 **SECTION 4.**

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

14 **SECTION 5.**

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