

House Bill 1663 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Buck of the 135th, Smyre of the 136th, Taylor of the 134th, Hugley of the 133rd, Smith of the 102nd and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act providing a new charter for the county-wide government of Columbus,
2 Georgia, approved April 5, 1993 (Ga. L. 1993, p. 4978), as amended, so as to revise the
3 districts for the election of members of the city council; to provide for definitions and
4 inclusions; to provide for submission of this Act for preclearance pursuant to Section 5 of the
5 federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to provide for related matters; to repeal
6 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 An Act providing a new charter for the county-wide government of Columbus, Georgia,
10 approved April 5, 1993 (Ga. L. 1993, p. 4978), as amended, is amended by striking
11 paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 6-101 and inserting new paragraphs (1) and (2) to read as
12 follows:

13 "(1) For the purpose of electing the district councilors, the territory of the consolidated
14 government shall be divided into eight council districts which shall be and correspond to
15 those eight numbered districts described in and attached to and made a part of this Act
16 and further identified as Plan Name: option3 Plan Type: LOCAL User: Gina
17 Administrator: MUSCOGEE- COUNTY.

18 (2) When used in such attachment, the terms 'Tract' and 'BG' (Block Group) shall mean
19 and describe the same geographical boundaries as provided in the report of the Bureau
20 of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia.
21 The separate numeric designations in a Tract description which are underneath a 'BG'
22 heading shall mean and describe individual Blocks within a Block Group as provided in
23 the report of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2000 for
24 the State of Georgia. Any part of Muscogee County which is not included in any such
25 district described in that attachment shall be included within that district contiguous to
26 such part which contains the least population according to the United States decennial

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

10

SECTION 2.

11 It is the purpose of this Act to reapportion the districts from which members of the Council
12 of Columbus, Georgia, are to be elected in the 2002 elections and in subsequent elections,
13 and this Act results from changes in population based on the United States decennial census
14 of 2000. It is not the intention of the General Assembly to affect the membership of current
15 members of the council, their terms of office, or the manner in which their successors shall
16 be elected, and such matters shall remain as provided by law on the effective date of this Act
17 until otherwise amended by law, except to the extent of reapportioning the districts
18 represented by such members.

19

SECTION 3.

20 It shall be the duty of the attorney for the county-wide government of Columbus, Georgia,
21 to submit this Act for approval pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of
22 1965, as amended.

23

SECTION 4.

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