

House Bill 904

By: Representatives Harbin of the 113th and Jackson of the 112th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To provide for the filling of vacancies in the office of sheriff of Columbia County; to provide
2 for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

4 **SECTION 1.**

5 (a) In the event the office of sheriff of Columbia County becomes vacant by death,
6 resignation, or otherwise, the judge of the probate court of Columbia County shall appoint
7 a qualified person to assume the duties of sheriff within 15 calendar days after the date of
8 such vacancy. If the judge of the probate court does not make such appointment within 15
9 calendar days after the date of such vacancy, the Governor shall promptly make such
10 appointment.

11 (b) If, at the time of the vacancy, there are more than six months remaining in the unexpired
12 term of office of the sheriff, then the vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of the
13 unexpired term at a special election to be called and conducted by the county election
14 superintendent in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A.
15 The person assuming the duties of sheriff as provided in subsection (a) of this section shall
16 serve until such time as a successor is elected and qualified in such special election.

17 (c) If, at the time of the vacancy, there are six months or less remaining in the unexpired
18 term of office of the sheriff, then the person assuming the duties of sheriff under
19 subsection (a) of this section shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term of office and
20 until a successor is elected and qualified.

21 (d) The person assuming the duties of sheriff under subsection (a) of this section shall not
22 be deemed to be the incumbent in the office of sheriff and shall not be designated as the
23 incumbent on the ballot if such person seeks the office of sheriff in the special election to fill
24 the vacancy or, in the event the vacancy occurs when there are six months or less remaining
25 in the unexpired term, in the general election to fill the new term of office.

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SECTION 2.

2 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.