

House Bill 334

By: Representatives Forster of the 3rd, Post 1, Joyce of the 2nd and White of the 3rd, Post 2

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend an Act to reconstitute the Board of Education of Catoosa County, Georgia, approved March 30, 1993 (Ga. L. 1993, p. 4258), so as to revise the districts for the election of members of the board of education; to provide for definitions and inclusions; to provide for method of election; to provide for submission of this Act for preclearance pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to provide for related matters; to provide for effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

An Act to reconstitute the Board of Education of Catoosa County, Georgia, approved March 30, 1993 (Ga. L. 1993, p. 4258), is amended by striking Section 2 and inserting in lieu thereof a new Section 2 to read as follows:

"SECTION 2.

(a) The members of the board of education who were elected at the general election in November 2000 shall continue in office for the terms to which they were elected and until successors are elected and qualified as provided in this Act. The members of the board of education who were elected at the general election in November 2002 shall continue in office for the terms to which they were elected and until successors are elected and qualified as provided in this Act.

(b) The Board of Education of Catoosa County shall consist of five members each of whom shall be elected by the eligible voters of the district in which he or she resides. For the purposes of this Act, a person 'resides' in the district in which he or she is domiciled. Domicile shall be determined by reference to the location of the house in which such person physically lives.

(c) For the purposes of determining eligibility of candidates to run for a seat on the board of education, the Catoosa County School District shall be constituted of five education

districts. Education Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4 shall be and correspond to those four numbered districts described in and attached to and made a part of this Act and further identified as Plan Name: catccsb1r Plan Type: Local User: Gina Administrator: Catoosa. Education District 5 shall be comprised of the entire geographic area of the Catoosa County School District.

(d) When used in such attachment, the terms 'Tract' and 'BG' (Block Group) shall mean and describe the same geographical boundaries as provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia. The separate numeric designations in a Tract description which are underneath a 'BG' heading shall mean and describe individual Blocks within a Block Group as provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia. Any part of Catoosa County which is not included in any such district described in that attachment shall be included within that district contiguous to such part which contains the least population according to the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia. Any part of Catoosa County which is described in that attachment as being in a particular district shall nevertheless not be included within such district if such part is not contiguous to such district. Such noncontiguous part shall instead be included within that district contiguous to such part which contains the least population according to the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia. Except as otherwise provided in the description of any district, whenever the description of such district refers to a named city, it shall mean the geographical boundaries of that city as shown on the census map for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia.

(e) Any person, in order to be eligible for membership on the board, must be domiciled and reside, at the time of qualification, in the district from which he or she offers himself or herself as a candidate. Each candidate shall designate by district number the position on the board for which such candidate offers himself or herself for election. Each candidate shall be elected to the board by the vote of all eligible voters of the education district in which he or she resides."

SECTION 2.

Said Act is further amended by striking Section 4 and inserting in lieu thereof a new Section 4 to read as follows:

"SECTION 4.

(a) The first members of the reconstituted Board of Education of Catoosa County from Education Districts 2 and 4 shall be elected at the nonpartisan general election held in conjunction with the state-wide general primary in 2006. Such members shall take office

1 on January 1 following their election for terms of four years and until their successors are
2 elected and qualified.

3 (b) The first members of the reconstituted Board of Education of Catoosa County from
4 Education Districts 1 and 3 shall be elected at the nonpartisan general election held in
5 conjunction with the state-wide general primary in 2004. Such members shall take office
6 on January 1 following their election for terms of four years and until their successors are
7 elected and qualified.

8 (c) The first member of the reconstituted Board of Education of Catoosa County from
9 Education District 5 shall be elected at the nonpartisan general election held in conjunction
10 with the state-wide general primary in 2004. Such member shall take office on January 1
11 following his or her election for a term of four years and until his or her successor is
12 elected and qualified.

13 (d) Successors to members elected under subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section shall
14 be elected at the nonpartisan general election held in conjunction with the state-wide
15 general primary next preceding the expiration of such terms of office and shall take office
16 on January 1 following their election for terms of four years and until their successors are
17 elected and qualified.

18 (e) Education Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4 as they existed on January 1, 2003, shall continue to
19 be designated as Education Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4, respectively, but as newly described
20 under this Act, and, on and after the effective date of this Act, such members of the board
21 serving from those former education districts shall be deemed to be serving from and
22 representing their respective districts as newly described under this section.

23 (f) All members of the board who are elected thereto shall be nominated and elected in
24 accordance with Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the 'Georgia Election Code,' in
25 nonpartisan elections as provided in Code Section 21-2-139 of the O.C.G.A."

26 **SECTION 3.**

27 The Board of Education of Catoosa shall through its legal counsel cause this Act to be
28 submitted for preclearance under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; and
29 such submission shall be made to the United States Department of Justice or filed with the
30 appropriate court no later than 45 days after the date on which this Act is approved by the
31 Governor or otherwise becomes law without such approval.

32 **SECTION 4.**

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