

House Bill 451

By: Representatives Murphy of the 14th, Post 2, Knox of the 14th, Post 1 and Jones of the 38th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act entitled "An Act to make provisions for the Magistrate Court of Forsyth
2 County," approved March 15, 1984 (Ga. L. 1984, p. 4293), as amended, particularly by an
3 Act approved March 30, 1989 (Ga. L. 1989, p. 4848), so as to provide qualifications,
4 election, and terms of the chief magistrate; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 An Act entitled "An Act to make provisions for the Magistrate Court of Forsyth County,"
8 approved March 15, 1984 (Ga. L. 1984, p. 4293), as amended, particularly by an Act
9 approved March 30, 1989 (Ga. L. 1989, p. 4848), is amended by striking in its entirety
10 Section 1 and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

11 "SECTION 1.

12 Effective January 1, 2009, no person shall be chief magistrate of the Magistrate Court of
13 Forsyth County unless at the time of his or her election he or she has attained the age of 30
14 years, has been a citizen of the State of Georgia for at least three years, has been an active
15 member in good standing of the State Bar of Georgia for at least five years, and has
16 practiced law for four years. At the state-wide primary and November general election
17 conducted in 2008 and every four years thereafter, the chief magistrate of Forsyth County
18 shall be nominated and elected by the qualified voters of Forsyth County in a primary and
19 election. Persons elected to such office shall take office the first day of January
20 immediately following such election and shall serve for a term of office of four years and
21 until the election and qualification of their respective successors. The procedures for such
22 nonpartisan primary and election shall be as provided in Code Section 21-2-139 of the
23 O.C.G.A. Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the primary and election shall be
24 governed by Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the 'Georgia Election Code.'"

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SECTION 2.

2 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.