

House Bill 622

By: Representatives Royal of the 140th and Houston of the 139th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 21-2-139 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 nonpartisan elections of certain local officers, so as to change which officers may be subject
3 to nonpartisan elections and provide for election dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
4 other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Code Section 21-2-139 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to nonpartisan
8 elections of certain local officers, is amended by striking subsection (a) thereof and inserting
9 in its place the following:

10 "(a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter to the contrary, the General
11 Assembly may provide by local Act for the election in nonpartisan elections of candidates
12 to fill county judicial offices, offices of local school boards, the offices of members of
13 county governing authorities, the offices of sheriffs, the offices of tax commissioners, the
14 offices of clerks of superior court, and offices of consolidated governments which are filled
15 by the vote of the electors of said county or political subdivision. Except as otherwise
16 provided in this Code section, the procedures to be employed in such nonpartisan elections
17 shall conform as nearly as practicable to the procedures governing nonpartisan elections
18 as provided in this chapter. Except as otherwise provided in this Code section, the election
19 procedures established by any existing local law which provides for the nonpartisan
20 election of candidates to fill county offices shall conform to the general procedures
21 governing nonpartisan elections as provided in this chapter, and such nonpartisan elections
22 shall be conducted in accordance with the applicable provisions of this chapter,
23 notwithstanding the provisions of any existing local law. For those offices for which the
24 General Assembly as of July 1, 2001, pursuant to this Code section, provided by local Act
25 for election in nonpartisan primaries and elections, such offices shall no longer require
26 nonpartisan primaries. Such officers shall be elected in nonpartisan elections held and

1 conducted in conjunction with the general primary in accordance with this chapter without
2 a prior nonpartisan primary. For those offices for which the General Assembly as of July
3 1, 2001, provided by local Act for election in a nonpartisan election without a prior
4 nonpartisan primary, such offices shall be elected in nonpartisan elections held and
5 conducted in conjunction with the November general election without a prior nonpartisan
6 primary. Nonpartisan elections for municipal offices shall be conducted on the dates
7 provided in the municipal charter. For those offices for which the General Assembly after
8 July 1, 2001, provides by local Act for election in a nonpartisan election, such offices shall
9 be elected in nonpartisan elections held and conducted in conjunction with the November
10 general election without a prior nonpartisan primary."

11 **SECTION 2.**

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