

Senate Bill 288

By: Senator Hudgens of the 47th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To provide that future elections for the office of probate judge of Jackson County and for the
2 office of chief magistrate of Jackson County shall be nonpartisan elections held at the time
3 of certain November general elections; to provide for submission of this Act under the
4 federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to provide for related matters; to provide an
5 effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 All elections for the office of probate judge of Jackson County and for the office of chief
9 magistrate of Jackson County conducted after the effective date of this Act shall be
10 nonpartisan elections as provided for in Code Section 21-2-139 of the O.C.G.A. and shall be
11 conducted at the November general election immediately preceding the expiration of the term
12 of such respective office. Such nonpartisan elections shall be held and conducted as
13 provided in Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the "Georgia Election Code."

14 **SECTION 2.**

15 Nothing in this Act shall affect the term of office of the probate judge of Jackson County or
16 chief magistrate of Jackson County in office on the effective date of this Act. The sitting
17 probate judge and sitting chief magistrate shall serve out the respective terms of office for
18 which such person was elected and shall be eligible to succeed himself or herself as provided
19 in this Act.

20 **SECTION 3.**

21 The governing authority of Jackson County shall through its legal counsel cause this Act to
22 be submitted for preclearance under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; and
23 such submission shall be made to the United States Department of Justice or filed with the

1 appropriate court no later than 60 days after the date on which this Act is approved by the
2 Governor or otherwise becomes law without such approval.

3 **SECTION 4.**

4 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
5 without such approval.

6 **SECTION 5.**

7 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.