

Senate Bill 321

By: Senators Lee of the 29th and Hooks of the 14th

**AS PASSED SENATE**

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT**

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

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

6 **SECTION 1.**

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

12 **SECTION 2.**

13 Nothing in this Act shall affect the term of office of the probate judge of Meriwether County  
14 in office on the effective date of this Act. The sitting probate judge shall serve out the term  
15 of office for which he or she was elected and shall be eligible to succeed himself or herself  
16 as provided in this Act.

17 **SECTION 3.**

18 The governing authority of Meriwether County shall through its legal counsel cause this Act  
19 to be submitted for preclearance under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended;  
20 and such submission shall be made to the United States Department of Justice or filed with  
21 the appropriate court no later than 60 days after the date on which this Act is approved by the  
22 Governor or otherwise becomes law without such approval.

**SECTION 4.**

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

**SECTION 5.**

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5 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.