

House Bill 970

By: Representatives Porter of the 119th and Coleman of the 118th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act to provide for the election of members of the board of education of Laurens
2 County, Georgia, from single-member districts, approved March 18, 1986 (Ga. L. 1986, p.
3 3821), as amended, particularly by an Act approved April 14, 1997 (Ga. L. 1997, p. 4171),
4 and an Act approved April 18, 2002 (Ga. L. 2002, p. 3950), so as to amend the provisions
5 for the date of election of members to the board of education so as to comply with state law;
6 to provide for related matters; to provide for submission under the federal Voting Rights Act;
7 to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 An Act to provide for the election of members of the board of education of Laurens County,
11 Georgia, from single-member districts, approved March 18, 1986 (Ga. L. 1986, p. 3821), as
12 amended, particularly by an Act approved April 14, 1997 (Ga. L. 1997, p. 4171), and an Act
13 approved April 18, 2002 (Ga. L. 2002, p. 3950), is amended by repealing in its entirety
14 Section 2A, relating to nonpartisan elections, and by striking Section 3 in its entirety and
15 substituting in lieu thereof a new Section 3 to read as follows:

16 **"SECTION 3.**

17 (a) All members of the board of education serving in office on July 1, 2003, shall continue
18 to serve until the expiration of the terms for which they were elected and until their
19 respective successors are elected and qualified unless otherwise removed from office as
20 provided by the Constitution and laws of this state.

21 (b) The members of the reconstituted board of education of Laurens County shall be
22 elected from nonpartisan elections without a nonpartisan primary. Such elections shall be
23 conducted in conjunction with the general primary in accordance with Code Section
24 21-2-139 of the O.C.G.A.

1 (c) The members of the reconstituted board of education of Laurens County from
2 Education Districts 2, 3, and 5 shall be elected on the date provided for the general primary
3 in 2004. Such members shall take office on January 1 following their election for terms
4 of four years and until their successors are elected and qualified.

5 (d) The members of the reconstituted board of education of Laurens County from
6 Education Districts 1 and 4 shall be elected on the date provided for the general primary
7 in 2006. Such members shall take office on January 1 following their election for terms
8 of four years and until their successors are elected and qualified.

9 (e) Successors to members elected under subsections (c) and (d) of this section shall be
10 elected at the general primary next preceding the expiration of terms of office and shall
11 take office on January 1 following their election for terms of four years and until their
12 successors are elected and qualified.

13 (f) In order to be elected as a member of the board from an education district, a person
14 must receive the number of votes cast as required by general law for that office in that
15 district only. Only electors who are residents of that education district may vote for a
16 member of the board district. At the time of qualifying for election as a member from an
17 education district, each candidate for such office shall specify the education district for
18 which that person is a candidate.

19 (g) Each member of the board of education serving in office on July 1, 2003, and elected
20 from Education District 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 shall on and after said date be deemed to represent
21 the present Education District 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 in which he or she resides."

22 SECTION 2.

23 It shall be the duty of the board of education of Laurens County, Georgia, to require the
24 attorney therefor to submit this Act for approval pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting
25 Rights Act of 1965, as amended.

26 SECTION 3.

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

29 SECTION 4.

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