

House Bill 979

By: Representatives Birdsong of the 104<sup>th</sup>, Parham of the 94<sup>th</sup>, Jenkins of the 93<sup>rd</sup>, and Lucas of the 105<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating a Board of Commissioners of Jones County, approved March 5,  
2 1974 (Ga. L. 1974, p. 2162), as amended, particularly by an Act approved April 5, 1995 (Ga.  
3 L. 1995, p. 4131), so as to reapportion the commissioner districts; to define certain terms; to  
4 provide for members currently serving; to provide for the submission of this Act to the  
5 United States Department of Justice; to provide for related matters; to provide effective  
6 dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 An Act creating a Board of Commissioners of Jones County, approved March 5, 1974 (Ga.  
10 L. 1974, p. 2162), as amended, particularly by an Act approved April 5, 1995 (Ga. L. 1995,  
11 p. 4131), is amended by striking in its entirety Section 2 and inserting in lieu thereof the  
12 following:

13 **"SECTION 2.**

14 (a) The board of commissioners of Jones County shall be composed of a chairperson and  
15 four other members.

16 (b) The chairperson may reside anywhere within Jones County and shall be elected by the  
17 voters of the entire county. Each other member must be a resident of the district the  
18 member represents and shall be elected by only the voters of that district. All elections shall  
19 be by majority vote.

20 (c) For purposes of electing the members of the board, Jones County is divided into four  
21 commissioner districts which shall be and correspond to those four numbered districts  
22 described in and attached to and made a part of this Act and further identified as Plan  
23 Name: jones-03-01 Plan Type: Local User: staff Administrator: Jones Co.

24 (d) When used in such attachment, the terms 'Tract' and 'BG' (Block Group) shall mean  
25 and describe the same geographical boundaries as provided in the report of the Bureau of

1 the Census for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia. The  
2 separate numeric designations in a Tract description which are underneath a 'BG' heading  
3 shall mean and describe individual Blocks within a Block Group as provided in the report  
4 of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of  
5 Georgia. Any part of Jones County which is not included in any such district described in  
6 that attachment shall be included within that district contiguous to such part which contains  
7 the least population according to the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State  
8 of Georgia. Any part of Jones County which is described in that attachment as being in a  
9 particular district shall nevertheless not be included within such district if such part is not  
10 contiguous to such district. Such noncontiguous part shall instead be included within that  
11 district contiguous to such part which contains the least population according to the United  
12 States decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia. Except as otherwise provided in  
13 the description of any commissioner district, whenever the description of such district  
14 refers to a named city, it shall mean the geographical boundaries of that city as shown on  
15 the census map for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia.  
16 (e) The chairperson and each other member of the board shall serve for a term of four years  
17 beginning the first day of January next following his or her election. Those members  
18 serving in office on the effective date of this Act shall serve until the expiration of the term  
19 for which they were elected. Successors shall be elected thereafter at the general election  
20 immediately preceding the expiration of a term of office."

21 **SECTION 2.**

22 It is the purpose of this Act to reapportion the districts from which members of the board of  
23 commissioners of Jones County are to be elected in the November, 2004, general election  
24 and in subsequent general elections, and this Act results from changes in population based  
25 on the United States decennial census of 2000. It is not the intention of the General Assembly  
26 to affect the membership of current members of the board, their terms of office, or the  
27 manner in which their successors shall be elected, and such matters shall remain as provided  
28 by law on the effective date of this Act until otherwise amended by law, except to the extent  
29 of reapportioning the districts represented by such members.

30 **SECTION 3.**

31 It shall be the duty of the attorney of the board of commissioners of Jones County to submit  
32 this Act for approval pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as  
33 amended.

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**SECTION 4.**

2 The provisions of this Act relating to and necessary for the regular election in 2004 of  
3 members of the board of commissioners of Jones County shall become effective upon its  
4 approval by the Governor or upon its becoming effective without such approval; and this Act  
5 shall otherwise become effective January 1, 2005.

6

**SECTION 5.**

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