

Senate Bill 381

By: Senator Meyer von Bremen of the 12th

AS PASSED SENATE

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT**

1 To provide for the holding of a nonbinding referendum in Baker County in conjunction with
2 the 2004 General Election on the question of whether the contract between the Baker County
3 Board of Education and the Mitchell County Board of Education that consolidates the Baker
4 County High School with the Mitchell County High School should be allowed to expire and
5 the Baker County High School students be returned to Baker County to receive their
6 education in the future; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
7 other purposes.

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

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Unless otherwise prohibited by the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, the
11 election superintendent of Baker County shall call and conduct an election on the date of the
12 2004 General Election as provided in this section for the purpose of submitting to the electors
13 of Baker County a nonbinding referendum on the question of whether the contract between
14 the Baker County Board of Education and the Mitchell County Board of Education that
15 consolidates the Baker County High School with the Mitchell County High School should
16 be allowed to expire and the Baker County High School students be returned to Baker
17 County to receive their education in the future. The election superintendent shall issue the
18 call and conduct such election as provided by general law. The superintendent shall cause
19 the date and purpose of the election to be published once a week for two weeks immediately
20 preceding the date thereof in the official organ of Baker County. The ballot shall have
21 written or printed thereon the words:

"NONBINDING REFERENDUM

() YES Shall the Baker County Board of Education allow the contract with the
() NO Mitchell County Board of Education that consolidates the Baker County
High School with the Mitchell County High School to expire and return the
Baker County High School students to Baker County to receive their
education in the future?"

All persons desiring to vote in favor of allowing such contract to expire and returning such students to Baker County shall vote "Yes," and all persons desiring to vote against allowing such contract to expire and returning such students to Baker County shall vote "No." The expense of such election shall be borne by Baker County.

SECTION 2.

The Board of Education of Baker County shall through its legal counsel cause this Act to be submitted for preclearance under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; and such submission shall be made to the United States Department of Justice or filed with the appropriate court no later than 45 days after the date on which this Act is approved by the Governor or otherwise becomes law without such approval.

SECTION 3.

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