

House Bill 588 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representative Buckner of the 109th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act establishing a Board of Commissioners of Talbot County, approved
2 February 16, 1876 (Ga. L. 1876, p. 291), as amended, particularly by Acts approved March
3 10, 1994 (Ga. L. 1994, p. 3637) and April 4, 1997 (Ga. L. 1997, p. 3691), so as to revise the
4 districts for the election of members of the board of commissioners; to provide for definitions
5 and inclusions; to provide for qualifications for office; to provide for related matters; to
6 provide for submission of this Act for preclearance pursuant to Section 5 of the federal
7 Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
8 laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

11 An Act establishing a Board of Commissioners of Talbot County, approved February 16,
12 1876 (Ga. L. 1876, p. 291), as amended, particularly by Acts approved March 10, 1994
13 (Ga. L. 1994, p. 3637) and April 4, 1997 (Ga. L. 1997, p. 3691), is amended by striking
14 subsection (b) of Section 1 and inserting a new subsection (b) to read as follows:

15 "(b)(1) For the purpose of electing members to the Talbot County Board of
16 Commissioners, Talbot County is divided into five commissioner districts which shall be
17 and correspond to those five numbered districts described in and attached to and made
18 a part of this Act and further identified as Plan Name: talbot3 Plan Type: Local User:
19 Gina Administrator: Talbot Co.

20 (2) When used in such attachment, the terms 'Tract' and 'BG' (Block Group) shall mean
21 and describe the same geographical boundaries as provided in the report of the Bureau
22 of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia.
23 The separate numeric designations in a Tract description which are underneath a 'BG'
24 heading shall mean and describe individual Blocks within a Block Group as provided in
25 the report of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2000 for
26 the State of Georgia. Any part of Talbot County which is not included in any such

1 district described in that attachment shall be included within that district contiguous to
2 such part which contains the least population according to the United States decennial
3 census of 2000 for the State of Georgia. Any part of Talbot County which is described
4 in that attachment as being in a particular district shall nevertheless not be included
5 within such district if such part is not contiguous to such district. Such noncontiguous
6 part shall instead 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. Except as otherwise provided in the description of any district, whenever the
9 description of such district refers to a named city, it shall mean the geographical
10 boundaries of that city as shown on the census map for the United States decennial census
11 of 2000 for the State of Georgia.

12 (3) The present members of the board of commissioners shall serve for the terms of
13 office for which they were elected and until their successors are elected and qualified.
14 Members of the board of commissioners shall be deemed to represent the commissioner
15 district provided for in this section which number corresponds to the commissioner
16 district for which they were elected. Beginning with the primary and general elections
17 held in 2004 and thereafter at which members of the board of commissioners are elected,
18 members shall be elected from the commissioner districts provided for in this section.

19 (4) In order to be elected as a member of the board from a commissioner district, a
20 person must have resided in that district for at least 12 months prior to election thereto
21 and must receive a majority of the votes cast for that office in that district only and not
22 at large. Only electors who are residents of that commissioner district may vote for a
23 member of the board for that district. At the time of qualifying for election as a member
24 of the board from a commissioner district, each candidate for such office shall specify the
25 commissioner district for which that person is a candidate. A person elected as a member
26 of the board from a commissioner district must continue to reside in that district during
27 that person's term of office or that office shall thereupon become vacant."

28 SECTION 2.

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

34 SECTION 3.

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