

House Bill 380 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Richardson of the 26th, O'Neal of the 117th, Massey of the 24th, and Westmoreland of the 86th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To provide for certain determinations with respect to the state flag of Georgia; to amend Title
2 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state government, so as to change
3 the state flag; to provide for the holding of an advisory referendum election to determine
4 whether the qualified electors of the State of Georgia desire a further change in the state flag;
5 to provide for related matters; to provide for severability; to provide an effective date; to
6 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state government, is amended
10 in Code Section 50-3-1, relating to the state flag and public monuments, by striking
11 subsection (a) and inserting in its place a new subsection to read as follows:

12 "~~(a) The flag of the State of Georgia shall be a blue field, centered upon which shall be~~
13 ~~placed a representation of that side of the great seal of the state described at subsection (c)~~
14 ~~of Code Section 50-3-30, centered in a circle of 13 equally spaced white mullets or~~
15 ~~five-pointed stars, and beneath the same shall be an escroll or ribbon, gold, two-thirds of~~
16 ~~the length of the field, bearing the words 'Georgia's History' and charged below said words~~
17 ~~with a representation of five flags horizontally presented as follows: the first, to the left,~~
18 ~~being that version of the flag of the United States of America consisting of a field of 13 red~~
19 ~~and white stripes and, centered in a canton of blue, a circle of 13 equally spaced white~~
20 ~~mullets or five-pointed stars, as adopted by the Continental Congress in 1777 and~~
21 ~~commonly known as the 'Stars and Stripes' or the '1777 Flag'; to the right thereof a flag~~
22 ~~consisting of a field of blue, centered upon which shall be placed a representation of the~~
23 ~~coat of arms of the state as the same appeared on the great seal of the state adopted in 1799,~~
24 ~~and which flag is commonly known as the 'Pre-1879 Georgia State Flag'; to the right~~
25 ~~thereof a flag consisting of a vertical band of blue occupying the leftmost one-third of the~~
26 ~~entire flag, on which shall be placed a representation of that side of the great seal of the~~

~~state approved in 1914 which contained the coat of arms of the state, and the remainder of~~
~~which flag shall consist of a scarlet field horizontally bisected by a white band such that~~
~~said band shall be equal in width to the remainder of the scarlet field both above and below,~~
~~which flag is commonly known as the 'Pre-1956 Georgia State Flag'; to the right thereof~~
~~the flag of the State of Georgia as approved at Ga. L. 1956, p. 38, Section 1; and to the~~
~~right thereof that version of the flag of the United States of America consisting of a field~~
~~of 13 red and white stripes and a canton of blue bearing 50 white mullets or five-pointed~~
~~stars, such that such flag shall represent the flag of the United States of America as the~~
~~same appeared on July 4, 1960. And under the horizontal representation of the five flags,~~
~~the phrase 'In God We Trust' shall be written in the blue section and in the same gold color~~
~~as the state seal.~~ consist of a square canton on a field of three horizontal bands of equal
width. The top and bottom bands shall be scarlet and the center band white. The bottom
band shall extend the entire length of the flag, while the center and top bands shall extend
from the canton to the fly end of the flag. The canton of the flag shall consist of a square
of blue the width of two of the bands, in the upper left of the hoist of the flag. In the center
of the canton shall be placed a representation in gold of the coat of arms of Georgia as
shown in the center of the obverse of the Great Seal of the State of Georgia adopted in
1799 and amended in 1914. Centered immediately beneath the coat of arms shall be the
words 'IN GOD WE TRUST' in capital letters. The coat of arms and wording 'IN GOD WE
TRUST' shall be encircled by 13 white five-pointed stars, representing Georgia and the 12
other original states that formed the United States of America. Official specifications of the
flag, including color identification system, type sizes and fonts, and overall dimensions,
shall be established by the Secretary of State, who pursuant to Code Section 50-3-4 serves
as custodian of the state flag. Every force of the organized militia shall carry this flag
while on parade or review."

SECTION 2.

(a) It shall be the duty of the Secretary of State to issue the call for an advisory referendum election to determine whether the qualified electors of the State of Georgia desire that the state flag adopted under Section 1 of this Act be changed. The Secretary of State shall conduct the referendum election as provided in this section on the date of the 2004 presidential preference primary election. The Secretary of State shall issue the call and conduct that referendum election as provided by general law.

(b) The ballot at the referendum election provided under this section shall have displayed or printed thereon the following:

