

House Bill 1112 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Birdsong of the 104th, Lucas of the 105th, and Parham of the 94th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating the board of commissioners of Jones County, approved March 5,
2 1974 (Ga. L. 1974, p. 2162), as amended, so as to provide for the duties and responsibilities
3 of the chairperson of the board; to provide for the full-time status and the compensation of
4 the chairperson; to provide for related matters; to provide for the election of the chairperson
5 by special election rather than regular election in 2004 only; to provide for a referendum
6 election to determine whether such change in duties and status shall become effective; to
7 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 An Act creating the board of commissioners of Jones County, approved March 5, 1974 (Ga.
11 L. 1974, p. 2162), as amended, is amended by striking Section 8 and inserting in its place a
12 new Section 8 to read as follows:

13 **"SECTION 8.**

14 The chairperson of the board shall receive as compensation the sum of \$65,000.00 per year
15 for his or her full-time service. The remaining members of the board shall receive as
16 compensation \$550.00 per month. Said members, including the chairperson, when traveling
17 outside the county on county business shall also receive travel expenses when traveling by
18 personal motor vehicle at the legal mileage rate authorized under Code Section 50-19-7 of
19 the O.C.G.A., as now or hereafter amended, and actual expenses for lodging and meals
20 upon submitting an itemized, verified account to the board and upon approval by a majority
21 of the members of the board. In addition, each member of the board, including the
22 chairperson, shall receive a monthly expense allowance of \$150.00. All such amounts shall
23 be paid from funds of Jones County."

SECTION 2.

Said Act is further amended by striking Section 11 and inserting in its place a new Section 11 to read as follows:

"SECTION 11.

(a) The chairperson of the board of commissioners shall be full time and shall be the chief administrative officer of the county. The chairperson shall be responsible for all administrative activities of the board including, but not limited to, compiling the annual budget to cover all anticipated revenues and expenditures for the ensuing year, for the approval of the board; maintaining the county's financial records, signing checks, and disbursing all monetary allotments; examining claims against the county and making recommendations as to payment; maintaining budgetary control accounts, proprietary accounts, and property control records; preparing and issuing monthly budgetary reports of county operations; planning and preparing for meeting the financial needs of the county; conducting internal audits of county funds as approved by the board; directing and supervising the administration of all county offices and functions; appointing and fixing the compensation of employees for whom the board is responsible, subject to approval of such compensation by the board; and acting as purchasing agent for the county and entering into contracts approved by the board on behalf of the county.

(b) The chairperson is authorized to employ an administrator to assist the chairperson with the duties set forth in subsection (a) of this section. The administrator shall be directed by the chairperson and shall be responsible to the chairperson and the board of commissioners. The administrator shall be appointed by the chairperson and shall have the qualifications and experience as required by the chairperson. The compensation of the administrator shall be set by the board. He or she shall be removable by action of a majority of the members of the board."

SECTION 3.

Unless prohibited by the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, the election superintendent of Jones County shall call and conduct an election as provided in this section for the purpose of submitting this Act to the electors of Jones County for approval or rejection. The election superintendent shall conduct that election on the date of the July, 2004, general primary. The superintendent shall issue the call and conduct that election as provided by general law. The superintendent shall cause the date and purpose of the election to be published once a week for two weeks immediately preceding the date thereof in the official organ of Jones County. The ballot shall have written or printed thereon the words:

1 "() YES Shall the Act be approved which provides for a full-time chairperson of the
2 () NO Jones County board of commissioners and fixes the annual salary of the
 full-time chairperson at \$65,000.00?"

3 All persons desiring to vote for approval of the Act shall vote "Yes," and those persons
4 desiring to vote for rejection of the Act shall vote "No." If more than one-half of the votes
5 cast on such question are for approval of the Act, Sections 1 and 2 of this Act shall become
6 of full force and effect January 1, 2005. If the Act is not so approved or if the election is not
7 conducted as provided in this section, then Sections 1 and 2 of this Act shall not become
8 effective and this Act shall be automatically repealed on the first day of January immediately
9 following. The expense of such election shall be borne by Jones County. It shall be the
10 election superintendent's duty to certify the result thereof to the Secretary of State.

11 SECTION 4.

12 In order that candidates for the office of chairperson may know the duties and status of the
13 office prior to qualifying, in only the year 2004 the office of chairperson of the board of
14 commissioners of Jones County shall be elected at a special election to be held on the date
15 of and in conjunction with the November, 2004, general election. There shall be no general
16 or special primary election for chairperson in 2004; and there shall be no qualifying for the
17 office of chairperson at the regular 2004 qualifying period. Qualifying for and conduct of the
18 special election at the time of the general election shall instead be as provided by the
19 provisions of the "Georgia Election Code" relating to a special election without a primary.

20 SECTION 5.

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