

House Bill 1787 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Harbin of the 80th and Fleming of the 79th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend an Act to provide for the election of the members of the board of education of Columbia County, approved March 21, 1968 (Ga. L. 1968, p. 2708), as amended, so as to provide for the holding of a nonbinding referendum in the Columbia County School District in conjunction with the 2004 General Election on the question of whether the chairperson of the Columbia County Board of Education should be elected by the voters of the entire Columbia County School District; to provide for related matters; to require submission of this Act for preclearance pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

An Act to provide for the election of the members of the board of education of Columbia County, approved March 21, 1968 (Ga. L. 1968, p. 2708), as amended, is amended by adding a new Section 6A to read as follows:

"SECTION 6A.

Unless otherwise prohibited by the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, the election superintendent of Columbia County shall call and conduct an election on the date of the 2004 General Election as provided in this section for the purpose of submitting to the electors of the Columbia County School District a nonbinding referendum on the question of whether the chairperson of the Columbia County Board of Education should be elected by the voters of the entire Columbia County School District. The election superintendent shall issue the call and conduct such 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 Columbia County. The ballot shall have written or printed thereon the words:

'NONBINDING REFERENDUM

() YES Shall the chairperson of the Columbia County Board of Education be

() NO elected by the voters of the entire Columbia County School District?"

All persons desiring to vote in favor of electing the chairperson of the Columbia County Board of Education by the voters of the entire Columbia County School District shall vote 'Yes,' and all persons desiring to vote against electing the chairperson of the Columbia County Board of Education by the voters of the entire Columbia County School District shall vote 'No.' The expense of such election shall be borne by the Columbia County Board of Education."

SECTION 2.

The Board of Education of Columbia 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.