

Senate Bill 312

By: Senator Whitehead, Sr. of the 24th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act providing for the election of the Board of Education of Columbia County,
2 approved March 21, 1968 (Ga. L. 1968, p. 2708), as amended, particularly by an Act
3 approved September 21, 1995 (Ga. L. 1995, Ex. Sess., p. 336), and by an Act approved April
4 25, 2002 (Ga. L. 2002, p. 4528), so as to change provisions relating to education districts for
5 the board; to define certain terms; to provide for the manner and dates of election of members
6 of the board; to provide for related matters; to provide for the submission of this Act to the
7 United States Department of Justice; to provide for related matters; to provide effective
8 dates; to repeal conflicting 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 providing for the election of the Board of Education of Columbia County, approved
12 March 21, 1968 (Ga. L. 1968, p. 2708), as amended, particularly by an Act approved
13 September 21, 1995 (Ga. L. 1995, Ex. Sess., p. 336), and by an Act approved April 25, 2002
14 (Ga. L. 2002, p. 4528), is amended by striking Sections 1, 2, and 3 of the Act and inserting
15 in lieu thereof new Sections 1, 2, and 3 to read as follows:

16 style="text-align:center">"Section 1.

17 (a) The Board of Education of Columbia County shall be composed of five members to
18 be elected as provided in this Act. For the purposes of electing members of the board of
19 education, Columbia County is divided into four education districts. The four education
20 districts shall be and correspond to those four numbered districts described in and attached
21 to and made a part of this Act and further identified as Plan Name: colcc02 Plan Type:
22 Local User: staff Administrator: Columbia. The chairperson of the board shall be elected
23 by the electors of the entire county.

24 (b) When used in such attachment, the terms 'Tract' and 'BG' (Block Group) shall mean
25 and describe the same geographical boundaries as provided in the report of the Bureau of

1 the Census for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia. The
2 separate numeric designations in a Tract description which are underneath a 'BG' heading
3 shall mean and describe individual Blocks within a Block Group as provided in the report
4 of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of
5 Georgia. Any part of the Columbia County School District which is not included in any
6 such district described in that attachment shall be included within that district contiguous
7 to such part which contains the least population according to the United States decennial
8 census of 2000 for the State of Georgia. Any part of the Columbia School District which
9 is described in that attachment as being in a particular district shall nevertheless not be
10 included within such district if such part is not contiguous to such district. Such
11 noncontiguous part shall instead be included within that district contiguous to such part
12 which contains the least population according to the United States decennial census of 2000
13 for the State of Georgia. Except as otherwise provided in the description of any education
14 district, whenever the description of such district refers to a named city, it shall mean the
15 geographical boundaries of that city as shown on the census map for the United States
16 decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia.

17 Section 2.

18 (a) The members of the board of education in office on the effective date of this Act shall
19 serve and continue to represent the districts from which they were elected until
20 December 31, 2006, at which time their terms of office shall end.

21 (b) At the general nonpartisan election in 2006, there shall be elected a chairperson and
22 four members of the board of education. The chairperson and the member elected from
23 District 1, as newly described herein, shall take office on January 1, 2007, and shall serve
24 a term of four years and until their successors are elected and qualified. The members
25 elected from Districts 2, 3, and 4, as newly described herein, shall take office on January 1,
26 2007, and shall serve a term of two years and until their successors are elected and
27 qualified. Thereafter, the chairperson and members of the board shall be elected at the
28 nonpartisan general election immediately preceding the expiration of their terms of office
29 and shall take office on January 1 of the year immediately following such election for terms
30 of office of four years and until their successors are elected and qualified.

31 (c) The chairperson shall be elected by the vote of electors of the Columbia County School
32 District at large. The members representing Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4 shall be elected only
33 by the electors of the education district which the members seek to represent.

34 (d) No person shall be eligible to represent a district unless he or she has been a resident
35 of such district from which he or she is a candidate for at least one year immediately
36 preceding the date of the election. In the event that a member moves his or her residence

1 from the district the member represents, his or her seat on the board shall immediately
2 become vacant.

3 Section 3.

4 The chairperson and each member of the board of education shall be elected in a
5 nonpartisan election as authorized in Code Section 21-2-139 and other applicable
6 provisions of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the 'Georgia Election Code.'"

7 **SECTION 2.**

8 Unless otherwise prohibited by the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, the
9 election superintendent of Columbia County shall call and conduct an election on the
10 Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 2005, as provided in this section for the
11 purpose of submitting this Act to the electors of Columbia County for approval or rejection;
12 provided, however, that, if a county-wide referendum for Columbia County is held prior to
13 such date, the election superintendent of Columbia County shall call and conduct an election
14 on the same date as such county-wide referendum for the purpose of submitting this Act to
15 the electors of Columbia County for approval or rejection. The election superintendent shall
16 issue the call and conduct such election as provided by general law. The superintendent shall
17 cause the date and purpose of the election to be published once a week for two weeks
18 immediately preceding the date thereof in the official organ of Columbia County. The ballot
19 shall have written or printed thereon the words:

20 "() YES Shall the Act be approved which provides for the election of the chairperson
21 () NO of the Columbia County Board of Education by the voters of the entire
22 Columbia County School District?"

23 All persons desiring to vote for approval of the Act shall vote "Yes," and all persons desiring
24 to vote for rejection of the Act shall vote "No." If more than one-half of the votes cast on
25 such question are for the approval of the Act, Section 1 shall become of full force and effect
26 on January 1, 2006. If the Act is not approved or if the election is not conducted as provided
27 in this section, Section 1 shall not become effective and this Act shall be automatically
28 repealed on the first day of January immediately following that election date. The expense
29 of such election shall be borne by Columbia County. It shall be the duty of the election
30 superintendent of Columbia County to certify the results thereof to the Secretary of State.

31 **SECTION 3.**

32 The Board of Education of Columbia County shall through its legal counsel cause this Act
33 to be submitted for preclearance under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended,
34 not later than 45 days after the date on which this Act is approved by the Governor or
35 otherwise becomes law without such approval.

1 **SECTION 4.**

2 Except as otherwise provided in Section 2 of this Act, this Act shall become effective upon
3 its approval by the Governor or its becoming law without such approval.

4 **SECTION 5.**

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

1 Plan Name: colcc02 Plan Type: Local User: staff Administrator: Columbia

2 Redistricting Plan Components Report

3

4 District 001

5 Columbia County

6 Tract: 301.01

7 BG: 3

8 BG: 4

9 Tract: 301.02

10 Tract: 303.03

11 BG: 2

12 BG: 3

13 3000 3001 3002 3003 3004 3005 3006 3007 3008 3009 3010 3011

14 3016 3017 3018 3019 3022 3028 3029 3030 3031 3032 3033 3034

15 3035 3036 3037 3039 3040 3041 3042 3043 3044 3045 3046 3047

16 3048 3049 3992 3993 3997 3998 3999

17 District 002

18 Columbia County

19 Tract: 301.01

20 BG: 1

21 BG: 2

22 Tract: 302.01

23 Tract: 302.02

24 Tract: 302.03

25 Tract: 305.02

26 BG: 4

27 4000 4001 4002 4003 4004 4005

28 Tract: 306.03

29 District 003

30 Columbia County

31 Tract: 303.02

32 Tract: 303.03

33 BG: 3

34 3012 3013 3014 3015 3020 3021 3023 3024 3025 3026 3027 3038

1 3994 3995 3996
 2 BG: 4
 3 Tract: 303.04
 4 Tract: 303.05
 5 Tract: 304
 6 BG: 1
 7 BG: 2
 8 2000 2001 2002 2003
 9 BG: 3
 10 3001
 11 BG: 4
 12 4000 4001 4002 4003 4004 4005 4006 4007 4010 4998 4999
 13 BG: 5
 14 5000 5001 5021 5022 5023 5025 5998 5999
 15 BG: 7

 16 District 004
 17 Columbia County
 18 Tract: 304
 19 BG: 2
 20 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2998
 21 2999
 22 BG: 3
 23 3000 3002 3003 3004 3005 3006 3007 3008 3009 3010 3011 3012
 24 3013 3014 3015 3016 3017 3018 3019 3020 3021 3022 3023 3024
 25 3025 3026 3027
 26 BG: 4
 27 4008 4009 4011
 28 BG: 5
 29 5002 5003 5004 5005 5006 5007 5008 5009 5010 5011 5012 5013
 30 5014 5015 5016 5017 5018 5019 5020 5024 5996 5997
 31 Tract: 305.01
 32 Tract: 305.02
 33 BG: 4
 34 4006 4007 4008 4009 4010 4011 4012 4013 4014 4015 4016 4017
 35 4018 4019 4020 4021 4022 4023 4024 4025 4026 4027 4028 4029
 36 4030 4031 4032 4033 4034 4035 4036 4037 4038 4039 4040 4041

- 1 4042 4043 4044 4045 4046 4047 4048 4049 4050 4051 4052 4053
- 2 4054 4055 4056 4057 4058 4059 4060
- 3 BG: 5