

Senate Bill 312

By: Senator Whitehead, Sr. of the 24th

AS PASSED SENATE

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 effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws;
 8 and for other purposes.

9 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

10 **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 "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 out the terms to which they were elected and shall continue to represent the districts
20 from which they were elected until December 31, 2006.

21 (b) On and after January 1, 2007, the member of the board of education representing
22 former Education District 2 shall represent Education District 1, the member of the board
23 of education representing former Education District 5 shall represent Education District 3;
24 and the member of the board of education representing former Education District 3 shall
25 represent Education District 4 as such districts are described in this Act.

26 (c) The member representing former Education District 1 shall serve out the term to which
27 such member was elected which shall end on December 31, 2006, and no successor shall
28 be elected for such member.

29 (d) In the 2006 nonpartisan general election, a successor to the member representing
30 former Education District 4 shall be elected to represent Education District 2 as such
31 district is described under this Act.

32 (e) In the 2006 nonpartisan general election, a person shall be elected by the electors of the
33 entire Columbia County School District to serve as chairperson of the board of education.

34 (f) The person elected as chairperson in the 2006 nonpartisan general election shall serve
35 a term of office of two years beginning on January 1, 2007, and until his or her successor
36 is elected and qualified. At the 2008 nonpartisan general election, a successor shall be

1 elected for such chairperson to serve a term of office of four years beginning on January
2 1, 2009, and until a successor is elected and qualified. Thereafter, an election for a
3 successor to such chairperson shall be held at the nonpartisan general election in the year
4 immediately preceding the end of such chairperson's term of office for a term of office of
5 four years and until a successor is elected and qualified. Such chairperson shall take office
6 on the first day of January immediately following his or her election.

7 (g) At the 2006 nonpartisan general election, a member of the board of education shall be
8 elected to represent Education District 2 as described in this Act. Such member shall be
9 elected to serve a term of office of four years beginning January 1, 2007, and until his or
10 her successor is elected and qualified. Thereafter, an election for a successor to such
11 member shall be held at the nonpartisan general election in the year immediately preceding
12 the end of such member's term of office for a term of office of four years and until a
13 successor is elected and qualified. Such member shall take office on the first day of
14 January immediately following his or her election.

15 (h)(1) At the 2008 nonpartisan general election, an election shall be held to elect
16 successors to the members representing Education Districts 1, 3, and 4.

17 (2) Successors to the members representing Education Districts 1 and 4 shall be elected
18 to serve a term of office of four years beginning January 1, 2009, and until their
19 successors are elected and qualified. Thereafter, successors to such members shall be
20 elected at the nonpartisan general election in the year immediately preceding the end of
21 such members' terms of office for a term of office of four years and until their successors
22 are elected and qualified. Such members shall take office on the first day of January
23 immediately following their election.

24 (3) The successor to the member representing Education District 3 elected in the 2008
25 nonpartisan general election shall be elected to serve a two year term of office beginning
26 January 1, 2009, and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. A successor to
27 such member representing Education District 3 shall be elected in the 2010 nonpartisan
28 general election for a term of office of four years beginning January 1, 2011, and until his
29 or her successor is elected and qualified. Thereafter, a successor to such member shall
30 be elected at the nonpartisan general election in the year immediately preceding the end
31 of such member's term of office for a term of office of four years and until his or her
32 successor is elected and qualified. Such member shall take office on the first day of
33 January immediately following his or her election.

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

1 (j) No person shall be eligible to represent a district unless he or she has been a resident
2 of such district from which he or she is a candidate for at least one year immediately
3 preceding the date of the election. In the event that a member moves his or her residence
4 from the district the member represents, his or her seat on the board shall immediately
5 become vacant.

6 **Section 3.**

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

10 **SECTION 2.**

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

15 **SECTION 3.**

16 For the purposes of electing a member from Education District 2 and the chairperson in the
17 2006 nonpartisan general election, this Act shall become effective upon its approval by the
18 Governor or its becoming law without such approval. The Act shall become effective for all
19 other purposes on January 1, 2007.

20 **SECTION 4.**

21 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