

House Bill 712 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Cole of the 125th and Freeman of the 140th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To provide that future elections for the office of probate judge of Jones County shall be
2 nonpartisan elections; to provide for submission of this Act under the federal Voting Rights
3 Act of 1965, as amended; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to
4 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 All elections for the office of probate judge of Jones County conducted after January 1, 2006,
8 shall be nonpartisan elections as provided for in Code Section 21-2-139 of the O.C.G.A.
9 Such nonpartisan elections shall be held in conjunction with the general primary immediately
10 preceding expiration of the term of office and conducted as provided in Chapter 2 of Title
11 21 of the O.C.G.A., the "Georgia Election Code."

12 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

13 Nothing in this Act shall affect the term of office of the probate judge of Jones County in
14 office on January 1, 2006. The sitting probate judge shall serve out the term of office for
15 which he or she was elected and shall be eligible to succeed himself or herself as provided
16 in this Act.

17 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 3.**

18 The governing authority of Jones County shall through its legal counsel cause this Act to be
19 submitted for preclearance under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; and
20 such submission shall be made to the United States Department of Justice or filed with the
21 appropriate court no later than 60 days after the date on which this Act is approved by the
22 Governor or otherwise becomes law without such approval.

1 **SECTION 4.**

2 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
3 without such approval.

4 **SECTION 5.**

5 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.