

House Bill 616 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representative Black of the 174<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To provide that future elections for the office of probate judge of Echols 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 **SECTION 1.**

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

12 **SECTION 2.**

13 Nothing in this Act shall affect the term of office of the probate judge of Echols 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 **SECTION 3.**

18 The governing authority of Echols County shall through its legal counsel cause this Act to  
19 be 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5 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.