

House Bill 1159

By: Representatives Amerson of the 9th and Reece of the 27th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating the Board of Elections and Registration of Lumpkin County,
2 approved June 3, 2003 (Ga. L. 2003, p. 4354), so as to change certain provisions relating
3 to duties of the board; to change certain provisions relating to appointment and terms of
4 office of members; to change certain provisions relating to qualifications of members; to
5 change certain provisions relating to vacancies; to provide for removal of members; to
6 change certain provisions regarding appointment and duties of the election supervisor and
7 chief registrar; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 An Act creating the Board of Elections and Registration of Lumpkin County, approved
11 June 3, 2003 (Ga. L. 2003, p. 4354), is amended by striking Sections 1 and 2 and inserting
12 in their place new Sections 1 and 2 to read as follows:

13 "SECTION 1.

14 Pursuant to Code Section 21-2-40 of the O.C.G.A., there is created the Board of Elections
15 and Registration of Lumpkin County which shall have jurisdiction over voter registration
16 and absentee balloting procedures and the conduct of primaries and elections in Lumpkin
17 County in accordance with the provisions of this Act, which board of elections and
18 registration is sometimes referred to as "board" in this Act. The Board of Elections and
19 Registration of Lumpkin County will be the Superintendent of Elections.

20 **SECTION 2.**

21 (a) The Board of Elections and Registration of Lumpkin County shall be composed of five
22 members, each of whom shall be an elector and resident of Lumpkin County and who shall
23 be selected as provided in this section.

1 (b) Two members shall be appointed by the Lumpkin County executive committee of the
2 political party or body, or the state executive committee of the political party or body in the
3 absence of an organized county executive committee of a political party or body, which,
4 at the last preceding general election for the election of the Governor, nominated a
5 candidate for Governor and such candidate received the largest number of votes cast in this
6 state among candidates for the office of Governor. Such appointees shall be certified by
7 the chairperson of the appropriate executive committee of such political party or body to
8 the governing authority of the county and such certification shall be entered upon the
9 minutes of the governing authority. Those two members of the board who are serving as
10 such on December 31, 2005, and any person selected to fill a vacancy in any such office
11 shall continue to serve as such members until the regular expiration of their respective
12 terms of office on December 31, 2008, and upon the appointment and qualification of their
13 respective successors. Successors to those initial members of the board shall be appointed
14 as provided in this subsection. One of such members shall be designated as Seat 1 and
15 shall be appointed and shall take office the first day of January immediately following that
16 appointment and shall serve for an initial term of office which expires December 31, 2010,
17 and upon the appointment and qualification of his or her successor. One of such members
18 shall be designated as Seat 2 shall be appointed and shall take office the first day of January
19 immediately following that appointment and shall serve for an initial term of office which
20 expires December 31, 2012, and upon the appointment and qualification of his or her
21 successor. Those and all future successors to such members of the board whose terms of
22 office are to expire shall be appointed immediately preceding the expiration of such terms,
23 shall take office the first day of January immediately following that appointment, and shall
24 serve for terms of office of four years each. Members of the board shall serve for the terms
25 of office specified therefor in this subsection and until their respective successors are
26 appointed and qualified.

27 (c) Two members shall be appointed by the Lumpkin County executive committee of the
28 political party or body, or the state executive committee of the political party or body in the
29 absence of an organized county executive committee of the political party or body, which,
30 at the last preceding general election for the election of the Governor, nominated a
31 candidate for Governor and such candidate received the next largest number of votes cast
32 in this state among candidates for the office of Governor. Such appointees shall be
33 certified by the chairperson of the appropriate executive committee of that political party
34 or body to the governing authority of the county and such certification shall be entered
35 upon the minutes of the governing authority. Those two members of the board who are
36 serving as such on December 31, 2005, and any person selected to fill a vacancy in any
37 such office shall continue to serve as such members until the regular expiration of their

1 respective terms of office on December 31, 2006, and upon the appointment and
2 qualification of their respective successors. Successors to those initial members of the
3 board shall be appointed as provided in this subsection. One of such members shall be
4 designated as Seat 3 and shall be appointed and shall take office the first day of January
5 immediately following that appointment and shall serve for an initial term of office which
6 expires December 31, 2008, and upon the appointment and qualification of his or her
7 successor. One of such members shall be designated as Seat 4 and shall be appointed and
8 shall take office the first day of January immediately following that appointment and shall
9 serve for an initial term of office which expires December 31, 2010, and upon the
10 appointment and qualification of his or her successor. Those and all future successors to
11 members of the board whose terms of office are to expire shall be appointed immediately
12 preceding the expiration of such terms, shall take office the first day of January
13 immediately following that appointment, and shall serve for terms of office of four years
14 each. Members of the board shall serve for the terms of office specified therefor in this
15 subsection and until their respective successors are elected and qualified.

16 (d) The fifth member shall be appointed by the governing authority of the county. Said
17 member shall serve as the county registrar and elections supervisor and shall not be an
18 officer or member of the executive committee of any political party at the time of such
19 member's selection or at any time during such member's term of office as a member of the
20 board.

21 (e)(1) No person who holds elective public office shall be eligible to serve as a member
22 of the board during the term of such elective office, and the position of any member of
23 the board shall be deemed vacant upon such member qualifying as a candidate for
24 elective public office. Further, no immediate family member or employee of an elected
25 public official shall be eligible to serve as a member of the board during the elected
26 official's term of office.

27 (2) For the purposes of this subsection, immediate family members shall be defined as
28 a spouse, mother, father, stepmother, stepfather, grandmother, grandfather, child,
29 stepchild, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, half sister, mother-in-law,
30 father-in-law, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law.

31 (f) Appointments to the board shall be made by the respective appointing authorities. In
32 the event of a vacancy on the board with respect to a member appointed by one of the
33 political parties or bodies as provided in subsections (a) and (b) of this section, such
34 political party or body shall appoint a successor within 60 days after the date such vacancy
35 is created, such successor to be appointed in like manner as the person whose position is
36 vacant for his or her unexpired term. In the event such political party or body fails to make
37 an appointment within 60 days after the date such vacancy is created, the position shall be

1 filled by the governing authority of the county. In the event of a vacancy on the board with
2 respect to a member appointed as provided in subsection (d) of this section, the governing
3 authority of the county shall appoint a successor within 60 days after the date such vacancy
4 is created, such successor to be appointed in like manner as the person whose position is
5 vacant for his or her unexpired term.

6 (g) The governing authority of the county shall file with the clerk of the Superior Court
7 of Lumpkin County an affidavit that states the name and residential address of the person
8 appointed and certifies that such member has been duly appointed as provided in this Act.
9 The clerk of the superior court shall record each such certification on the minutes of the
10 court and shall certify the name of each such member to the Secretary of State and provide
11 for the issuance of appropriate commissions to the members within the same time and in
12 the same manner as provided by law for registrars.

13 (h) In the event that any citizen determines that sufficient cause exists to demand the
14 removal of a member of the board from his or her office, such matter shall be brought first
15 before the Board of Elections and Registration of Lumpkin County by signed affidavit
16 under oath stating such cause as is known. The board shall investigate and shall make its
17 determination within 30 days of the filing, unless such time is for good cause extended.
18 If the action of the Board of Elections and Registration of Lumpkin County is not
19 satisfactory to any party, then the matter shall by motion be brought before the Superior
20 Court of Lumpkin County for a determination of good cause shown by a preponderance of
21 the evidence.

22 (i) The board shall have the following powers and duties:

23 (1) It shall succeed to and exercise all of the duties and powers granted to and incumbent
24 upon the election supervisor of Lumpkin County with regard to the conduct of primaries
25 and elections; and

26 (2) It shall succeed to and exercise all of the duties and powers granted to and incumbent
27 on the chief registrar and the registrars of Lumpkin County with regard to the registration
28 of voters and absentee balloting procedures.

29 (j) The board shall be authorized and empowered to organize itself, elect its officers,
30 determine its procedural rules and regulations, adopt bylaws, specify the functions and
31 duties of its employees, and otherwise take such action as is appropriate to the management
32 of the affairs committed to its supervision; provided, however, that no such action shall
33 conflict with state law.

34 (k) The board shall organize and the election superintendent and the chief registrar and the
35 board of registrars of Lumpkin County shall be relieved of all powers and duties to which
36 the board succeeds by virtue of the provisions of this Act. The election superintendent and
37 the board of registrars shall deliver to the board upon request of its chairperson custody of

1 all equipment, supplies, materials, books, papers, records, and facilities of every kind
2 pertaining to such powers and duties. At such time the offices of election superintendent,
3 the board of registrars, and the chief registrar of Lumpkin County shall be abolished.

4 (l) The governing authority of the county shall appoint a person who shall be a full-time
5 employee of the county and whose title shall be the election supervisor and chief registrar.
6 This person shall be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the office. This person
7 may also be the person appointed as a board member as provided by subsection (d) of this
8 section; if so appointed, the appointment shall be contingent on the employment, and
9 termination of the employment shall act to terminate the appointment as a member of the
10 board.

11 (m) Compensation for board members, elections supervisor, clerical assistants, and other
12 employees of the board shall be such as may be fixed from time to time by the governing
13 authority of the county. Such compensation shall be paid from county funds.

14 (n) The governing authority of the county shall provide the board with such proper and
15 suitable offices and with such clerical assistants and other employees as the governing
16 authority of the county shall deem appropriate. The elections supervisor and other
17 employees functioning under his or her supervision shall be deemed to be employees of the
18 county."

19 **SECTION 2.**

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