

House Bill 1662

By: Representatives Burns of the 157<sup>th</sup> and Carter of the 159<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To provide for an advisory referendum regarding whether Effingham County should adopt  
2 a chairperson of the board of commissioners who is elected by the entire county; to provide  
3 for an advisory referendum regarding whether Effingham County should establish a board  
4 of elections; to provide for ballot questions; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting  
5 laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 (a) It is the purpose of this Act to provide for a nonbinding, advisory referendum for the  
9 purpose of ascertaining whether Effingham County should allow for the election of a  
10 chairperson for the board of commissioners who is elected county wide and whether the  
11 county should establish a board of elections.

12 (b) It is found, determined, and declared that the holding of the nonbinding, advisory  
13 referendum provided for in this Act is:

14 (1) In all respects for the benefit of the people of Effingham County;

15 (2) A public purpose; and

16 (3) An essential governmental function for which public funds may be expended.

17 (c) Unless prohibited by the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, the election  
18 superintendent of Effingham County shall call a special election for the purpose of  
19 conducting a nonbinding, advisory referendum election as provided in Section 3 of this Act  
20 for the purpose of submitting questions to the qualified voters of Effingham County to  
21 determine whether a majority of said electors want the General Assembly to enact legislation  
22 adopting a chairperson of the board of commissioners who is elected county wide and  
23 creating an Effingham County board of elections. The superintendent shall set the date of  
24 such election for the 2006 state-wide general primary. The superintendent shall issue the call  
25 for such election at least 30 days prior to the date thereof. The superintendent shall cause the  
26 date and purpose of the election to be published once a week for two weeks immediately

1 preceding the date thereof in the official organ of Effingham County. The ballot shall have  
 2 written or printed thereon the words:

3 "NONBINDING ADVISORY REFERENDUM

4 CHECK ONE

QUESTION 1

5 ( ) YES Should there be a chairperson of the Effingham County  
 6 ( ) NO board of commissioners elected county wide?

7 CHECK ONE

QUESTION 2

8 ( ) YES Should there be created an Effingham County board of  
 9 ( ) NO elections to administer the county elections?"

10 All persons desiring to express an opinion shall select one choice on the left of each of the  
 11 ballot questions. The expense of such election shall be borne by Effingham County. It shall  
 12 be the election superintendent's duty to certify the result thereof to the Secretary of State and  
 13 each member of the General Assembly whose senatorial or representative district lies wholly  
 14 or partially within Effingham County.

15 **SECTION 2.**

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

18 **SECTION 3.**

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