

House Bill 1003 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Talton of the 145th, O'Neal of the 146th, Floyd of the 147th, and Ray of the 136th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act entitled "An Act to make provisions for the Magistrate Court of Houston
2 County," approved March 1, 1984 (Ga. L. 1984, p. 3652), as amended, so as to provide for
3 the election of the chief magistrate and magistrates; to provide for procedures; to provide for
4 qualifications; to provide that the chief magistrate shall be a full-time magistrate; to authorize
5 assistant magistrates; to provide for the filling of vacancies; to provide for the submission of
6 this Act to the United States Department of Justice; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
7 purposes.

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

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 An Act entitled "An Act to make provisions for the Magistrate Court of Houston County,"
11 approved March 1, 1984 (Ga. L. 1984, p. 3652), as amended, is amended by striking Sections
12 1 and 2 of said Act and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

13 **"SECTION 1.**

14 The chief magistrate of Houston County shall be elected in the same manner as the judges
15 of the State Court of Houston County. The first such election shall take place at the time
16 of the general election in 2008, and the chief magistrate and magistrates elected at such
17 time shall take office on January 1, 2009, for terms of four years and until their successors
18 are duly elected and qualified. The chief magistrate and magistrates serving on the effective
19 date of this Act shall serve through December 31, 2008. The chief magistrate elected as
20 provided in this section shall be a member in good standing of the State Bar of Georgia,
21 shall be a full-time magistrate, and shall devote his or her full time to the duties of the
22 office. The chief magistrate shall be authorized to employ one or more assistant
23 magistrates.

