

House Bill 783

By: Representative Ralston of the 7<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating the board of commissioners of Gilmer County, approved March  
2 27, 1995 (Ga. L. 1995, p. 3824), as amended, so as to provide for staggered election of the  
3 members of the board of commissioners; to provide for continuation in office of the current  
4 chairperson and members of the board of commissioners; to provide for election and terms  
5 of office of successors; to provide for submission of this Act for preclearance under the  
6 federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; 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 creating the board of commissioners of Gilmer County, approved March 27, 1995  
11 (Ga. L. 1995, p. 3824), as amended, is amended by revising subsection (d) of Section 2 as  
12 follows:

13 **"SECTION 2.**

14 (d)(1) Those members of the board of commissioners of Gilmer County who are serving  
15 as such on December 31, 2007, and any person selected to fill a vacancy in any such  
16 office shall continue to serve as such members until the regular expiration of their  
17 respective terms of office and upon the election and qualification of their respective  
18 successors.

19 (2) The members of the reconstituted board of commissioners of Gilmer County shall be  
20 elected as provided in this subsection. The first chairperson and the first member from  
21 commissioner Post 2 shall be elected at the general election on the Tuesday next following  
22 the first Monday in November, 2008. The chairperson and the member of the board elected  
23 thereto from commissioner Post 2 in 2008 shall take office the first day of January  
24 immediately following that election and shall serve for initial terms of office which expire  
25 December 31, 2010, and upon the election and qualification of respective successors. The  
26 first member from commissioner Post 1 shall be elected at the general election on the

1 Tuesday next following the first Monday in November, 2008. The member of the board  
2 elected thereto from commissioner Post 1 in 2008 shall take office the first day of January  
3 immediately following that election and shall serve for an initial term of office which  
4 expires December 31, 2012, and upon the election and qualification of such member's  
5 successor. Those and all future successors to the chairperson and members of the board  
6 whose terms of office are to expire shall be elected at the time of the state-wide general  
7 election immediately preceding the expiration of such terms, shall take office the first day  
8 of January immediately following that election, and shall serve for terms of office of four  
9 years each. The chairperson and members of the board shall serve for the terms of office  
10 specified therefor in this subsection and until their respective successors are elected and  
11 qualified."

## 12 **SECTION 2.**

14 The board of commissioners of Gilmer County shall through its legal counsel cause this Act  
15 to be submitted for preclearance under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended;  
16 and such submission shall be made to the United States Department of Justice or filed with  
17 the appropriate court no later than 45 days after the date on which this Act is approved by the  
18 Governor or otherwise becomes law without such approval.

## 19 **SECTION 3.**

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