

House Bill 273 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representative Smith of the 113<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating the Board of Commissioners of Oconee County, approved April  
2 18, 1917 (Ga. L. 1917, p. 384), as amended, particularly by an Act approved April 17, 1975  
3 (Ga. L. 1975, p. 3105), so as to provide for terms for the members of the board of  
4 commissioners of Oconee County; to provide for elections; to provide for a referendum; to  
5 provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 An Act creating the Board of Commissioners of Oconee County, approved April 18, 1917  
9 (Ga. L. 1917, p. 384), as amended, particularly by an Act approved April 17, 1975 (Ga. L.  
10 1975, p. 3105), is amended by revising Section 2 as follows:

11 "SECTION 2.

12 The board of commissioners shall be composed of a chairperson and four members. The  
13 members shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast for numbered posts which shall  
14 be designated on the ballot as Posts 1, 2, 3, and 4. The chairperson shall be elected by  
15 majority of the votes cast and shall be designated as chairperson on the ballot. At the  
16 election in November, 2008, the members of the board of commissioners shall be elected  
17 as provided in this Act. The chairperson and those members elected from Posts 1 and 4  
18 shall be elected for terms of four years beginning on January 1, 2009, and until their  
19 successors are duly elected and qualified. Those members elected from Posts 2 and 3 shall  
20 be elected for terms of two years beginning on January 1, 2009, and until their successors  
21 are duly elected and qualified. Thereafter, successors shall be elected for terms of four  
22 years. All members shall take office on January 1 of the year following their election."

**SECTION 2.**

1  
 2 Unless prohibited by the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, the election  
 3 superintendent of Oconee County shall call and conduct an election as provided in this  
 4 section for the purpose of submitting this Act to the electors of Oconee County for approval  
 5 or rejection. The election superintendent shall conduct that election on the third Tuesday in  
 6 June, 2007, and shall issue the call and conduct that election as provided by general law.  
 7 The superintendent shall cause the date and purpose of the election to be published once a  
 8 week for two weeks immediately preceding the date thereof in the official organ of Oconee  
 9 County. The ballot shall have written or printed thereon the words:

10 " YES Shall that Act be approved which provides that the members of the Board  
 11 of Commissioners of Oconee County shall be elected to serve staggered  
 12  NO four-year terms?"

13 All persons desiring to vote for approval of the Act shall vote "Yes," and all persons desiring  
 14 to vote for rejection of the Act shall vote "No." If more than one-half of the votes cast on  
 15 such question are for approval of the Act, Section 1 of this Act shall become of full force and  
 16 effect on January 1, 2008. If the Act is not so approved or if the election is not conducted  
 17 as provided in this section, Section 1 of this Act shall not become effective and this Act shall  
 18 be automatically repealed on the first day of January immediately following that election  
 19 date. The expense of such election shall be borne by Oconee County. It shall be the election  
 20 superintendent's duty to certify the result thereof to the Secretary of State.

**SECTION 3.**

21  
 22 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
 23 without such approval.

**SECTION 4.**

24  
 25 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.