

House Bill 1480 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representative Pruett of the 144<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating the office of commissioner of Dodge County, approved August  
2 19, 1912 (Ga. L. 1912, p. 367), as amended, particularly by an Act approved April 21, 1997  
3 (Ga. L. 1997, p. 4417), as amended, so as to change the terms of office of the members of  
4 the board of commissioners and provide for staggered terms; to provide that the members of  
5 the board elected from commissioner districts shall be elected by a majority vote of the  
6 electors voting within their respective commissioner districts; to provide that the chairperson  
7 shall be elected by a majority vote of the electors of the entire county voting in an election  
8 for such office; to provide for related matters; to require submission of this Act pursuant to  
9 the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting  
10 laws; and for other purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

12 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

13 An Act creating the office of commissioner of Dodge County, approved August 19, 1912  
14 (Ga. L. 1912, p. 367), as amended, particularly by an Act approved April 21, 1997 (Ga. L.  
15 1997, p. 4417), as amended, is amended by striking Section 4 and inserting in lieu thereof  
16 a new Section 4 as follows:

17 style="text-align:center">"SECTION 4.

18 (a) Beginning with the general election of 2008 and the taking of office on January 1,  
19 2009, the members of the board of commissioners shall be composed of a chairperson  
20 elected county-wide and four commissioners elected from Districts 1 through 4. Members  
21 appointed or elected to fill vacancies on such board prior to December 31, 2008, shall serve  
22 for terms of office which expire December 31, 2008. Following the 2008 general election,  
23 members shall be elected and serve terms of office as follows:

24 (1) The members of the board of commissioners elected to Districts 1 and 4 shall serve  
25 for terms of four years beginning January 1, 2009;

1 (2) The members of the board of commissioners elected to Districts 2 and 3 shall serve  
2 for terms of two years beginning January 1, 2009, and shall serve for terms of four years  
3 beginning January 1, 2011, and thereafter, following the 2010 general election; and

4 (3) One member shall be elected county-wide who shall be the chairperson of the board  
5 of commissioners who shall serve for a term of four years beginning January 1, 2009.

6 (b) Members of the board shall serve for the terms of office specified in subsection (a) of  
7 this section and until their respective successors are elected and qualified. The members  
8 of the board elected from commissioner districts shall be elected by a majority vote of the  
9 electors voting within their respective commissioner districts. The chairperson shall be  
10 elected by a majority vote of the electors of the entire county voting in an election for such  
11 office. Positions on the board shall be chairperson and commissioners from Commissioner  
12 Districts 1 through 4, and all candidates for membership on the board shall designate the  
13 position for which they are offering."

#### 14 **SECTION 2.**

15 Pursuant to Section 5 of the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, it shall be the  
16 duty of the attorney of the Dodge County Board of Commissioners to submit this Act to the  
17 United States Attorney General for approval.

#### 18 **SECTION 3.**

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

#### 21 **SECTION 4.**

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