

## House Bill 1509

By: Representatives Stephens of the 161<sup>st</sup>, Gordon of the 162<sup>nd</sup>, Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, and Bryant of the 160<sup>th</sup>

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT**

1 To amend an Act relating to the school system of the City of Savannah and Chatham County,  
2 approved March 21, 1968 (Ga. L. 1968, p. 2636), as amended, so as to provide for additional  
3 qualifications for local board of education members; to revise provisions relating to terms  
4 of office; to provide for submission of this Act for approval under the federal Voting Rights  
5 Act of 1965, as amended; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 An Act relating to the school system of the City of Savannah and Chatham County, approved  
9 March 21, 1968 (Ga. L. 1968, p. 2636), as amended, is amended by adding a new subsection  
10 to the end of Section 2 to read as follows:

11 "(c)(1) No person shall be eligible for election as a member of the board who has not been  
12 a resident of the election district which such person seeks to represent for at least 12  
13 months.

14 (2) No person who does not possess a high school diploma or a general educational  
15 development (GED) diploma shall be eligible for election to the board.

16 (3) This subsection shall be applicable to persons elected or reelected in elections held after  
17 July 1, 2010."

18 **SECTION 2.**

19 Said Act is further amended by revising Section 3 to read as follows:

20 **"SECTION 3.**

21 (a) The president of the board of education in office on January 1, 2010, shall serve out the  
22 remainder of the term to which he was elected, such term expiring on December 31, 2010.  
23 At the general election in 2010 and every two years thereafter, the president shall be elected  
24 pursuant to this Act and shall serve for a term of two years and until his successor is elected

25 and qualified and shall take office on January 1 immediately following his or her election.  
26 No president may succeed himself or herself in office more than twice.

27 (b) The members of the board of education in office on January 1, 2010, representing  
28 Education Districts 1, 2, 3, and 7 shall serve out the remainder of the terms to which they  
29 were elected, such terms expiring on December 31, 2010. At the general election in 2010  
30 and every two years thereafter, members of the board shall be elected from Education  
31 Districts 1, 2, 3, and 7 pursuant to this Act and shall serve for terms of two years and until  
32 their successors are elected and qualified and shall take office on January 1 immediately  
33 following their election.

34 (c) The members of the board of education in office on January 1, 2010, representing  
35 Education Districts 4, 5, 6, and 8 shall serve out the remainder of the terms to which they  
36 were elected, such terms expiring on December 31, 2012. At the general election in 2012  
37 and every two years thereafter, members of the board shall be elected from Education  
38 Districts 4, 5, 6, and 8 pursuant to this Act and shall serve for terms of two years and until  
39 their successors are elected and qualified and shall take office on January 1 immediately  
40 following their election.

41 (d) All primaries and elections under this Act shall be held in accordance with Chapter 2 of  
42 Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the 'Georgia Election Code.'"

43 **SECTION 3.**

44 It shall be the duty of the attorney of the Board of Public Education for the City of Savannah  
45 and the County of Chatham to submit this Act for approval pursuant to Section 5 of the  
46 federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended.

47 **SECTION 4.**

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