

House Bill 660

By: Representative Parrish of the 156th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To provide for a nonbinding, advisory referendum for the purpose of ascertaining whether
2 the Candler County Board of Commissioners should levy an ad valorem tax for the purpose
3 of realizing tax revenue to provide payment for Candler County Hospital Authority's services
4 and facilities; to provide for legislative purposes and findings; to provide for procedures and
5 requirements relating thereto; to provide for a referendum and effective dates; to repeal
6 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 (a) It is the purpose of this Act to provide for a nonbinding, advisory referendum for the
10 purpose of ascertaining whether the Candler County Board of Commissioners should levy
11 an ad valorem tax for the purpose of realizing tax revenue to provide payment for Candler
12 County Hospital Authority's services and facilities.

13 (b) It is found, determined, and declared that the holding of the nonbinding, advisory
14 referendum provided for in this Act is:

- 15 (1) In all respects for the benefit of the people of Candler County;
16 (2) A public purpose; and
17 (3) An essential governmental function for which public funds may be expended.

18 **SECTION 2.**

19 Unless prohibited by the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, and unless the
20 Candler County Board of Commissioners determines that said referendum is not in the best
21 interest of the citizens of Candler County, the election superintendent of Candler County
22 shall call and conduct a nonbinding, advisory referendum election as provided in this section
23 for the purpose of submitting a question to the electors of Candler County to determine
24 whether a majority of said electors want the Candler County Board of Commissioners to levy
25 an ad valorem tax to provide payment for Candler County Hospital Authority's services and

26 facilities. The election superintendent shall decide in accordance with Georgia election law
 27 the date on which the nonbinding, advisory referendum election shall be held and shall issue
 28 the call and conduct that election as provided by general law. The election superintendent
 29 shall cause the date and purpose of the election to be published once a week for two weeks
 30 immediately preceding the date thereof in the official organ of Candler County. The ballot
 31 shall have written or printed thereon the words:

32 **"NONBINDING ADVISORY REFERENDUM**

33 **Question 1**

34 () YES Should the Candler County Board of Commissioners levy an ad valorem tax
 35 () NO of up to one mill for the purpose of realizing tax revenue to provide
 36 payment for Candler County Hospital Authority's services and facilities?

37 **Question 2**

38 () YES Should the Candler County Board of Commissioners levy an ad valorem tax
 39 () NO of more than one mill for the purpose of realizing tax revenue to provide
 40 payment for Candler County Hospital Authority's services and facilities?"

41 All persons desiring to vote for approval of a question shall vote "Yes," and all persons
 42 desiring to vote for rejection of a question shall vote "No." The expense of such election
 43 shall be borne by Candler County. It shall be the election superintendent's duty to certify the
 44 result thereof to the Secretary of State.

45 **SECTION 3.**

46 Except as otherwise provided in Section 2 of this Act, this Act shall become effective upon
 47 its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

48 **SECTION 4.**

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