

House Bill 552

By: Representatives Benton of the 31st and McCall of the 30th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To provide that future elections for the office of chief magistrate judge of the magistrate
2 court of Jackson County shall be nonpartisan elections; to provide for submission of this Act
3 for preclearance under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to provide for
4 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 All elections for the office of chief magistrate judge of the magistrate court of Jackson
8 County conducted after January 1, 2012, shall be nonpartisan elections as provided for in
9 Code Section 21-2-139 of the O.C.G.A. Such nonpartisan elections shall be held in
10 conjunction with the November general election immediately preceding expiration of the
11 term of office and conducted as provided in Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the
12 "Georgia Election Code."

13 **SECTION 2.**

14 Nothing in this Act shall affect the term of office of the chief magistrate judge of the
15 magistrate court of Jackson County in office on January 1, 2012. The sitting chief magistrate
16 judge shall serve out the term of office for which he or she was elected and shall be eligible
17 to succeed himself or herself as provided in this Act.

18 **SECTION 3.**

19 The governing authority of Jackson County shall through its legal counsel cause this Act to
20 be submitted for preclearance under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, no
21 later than 45 days after the date on which this Act is approved by the Governor or otherwise
22 becomes law without such approval.

23

SECTION 4.

24 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.