

House Bill 599

By: Representative Houston of the 170<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To provide that future elections for the office of judge of the probate court of Cook County  
2 shall be nonpartisan elections; to provide for submission of this Act for preclearance under  
3 the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to provide for related matters; to provide  
4 an effective date; 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 judge of the probate court of Cook County conducted after  
8 January 1, 2012, shall be nonpartisan elections as provided for in Code Section 21-2-139 of  
9 the O.C.G.A. and shall be held and conducted as provided in Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the  
10 O.C.G.A., the "Georgia Election Code."

11 **SECTION 2.**

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

16 **SECTION 3.**

17 The governing authority of Cook County shall through its legal counsel cause this Act to be  
18 submitted for preclearance under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, no later  
19 than 60 days after the date on which this Act is approved by the Governor or otherwise  
20 becomes law without such approval.

21 **SECTION 4.**

22 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2012.

23

**SECTION 5.**

24 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.