

House Bill 193 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representative Allison of the 8th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act providing that the judge of the Probate Court of Union County shall serve
2 as chief magistrate of the Magistrate Court of Union County, approved February 25, 1997
3 (Ga. L. 1997, p. 3504), as amended, particularly by an Act approved April 9, 1999
4 (Ga. L. 1999, p. 3799), so as to provide that the chief magistrate shall be elected on a
5 nonpartisan basis; to provide for submission of this Act under the federal Voting Rights Act
6 of 1965, as amended; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal
7 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 An Act providing that the judge of the Probate Court of Union County shall serve as chief
11 magistrate of the Magistrate Court of Union County, approved February 25, 1997
12 (Ga. L. 1997, p. 3504), as amended, particularly by an Act approved April 9, 1999
13 (Ga. L. 1999, p. 3799), is amended by revising subsection (a) of Section 1 as follows:

14 "(a) The chief magistrate of Union County on the effective date of this Act shall continue
15 to serve as such until the expiration of his or her term of office on December 31, 2012. At
16 the nonpartisan general election of 2012, a successor chief magistrate shall be elected by
17 the voters of Union County for a term of four years beginning on January 1, 2013, and until
18 a successor is elected and qualified. Thereafter, successor chief magistrates shall be elected
19 by the voters of Union County at the nonpartisan general election immediately preceding
20 the expiration of the term of office and shall take office on the first day of January
21 immediately following such election for a term of four years and until a successor is elected
22 and qualified. All elections for the office of chief magistrate of Union County conducted
23 after the effective date of this subsection shall be nonpartisan elections as provided for in
24 Code Section 21-2-139 of the O.C.G.A. and shall be held and conducted as provided in
25 Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the 'Georgia Election Code.'"

26 **SECTION 2.**

27 Nothing in this Act shall affect the term of office of the chief magistrate of Union County in
28 office on the effective date of this Act. The sitting chief magistrate shall serve out the term
29 of office for which such chief magistrate was elected and shall be eligible to succeed himself
30 or herself as provided in this Act.

31 **SECTION 3.**

32 The governing authority of Union County shall through its legal counsel cause this Act to be
33 submitted for preclearance under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, not
34 later than 60 days after the date on which this Act is approved by the Governor or otherwise
35 becomes law without such approval.

36 **SECTION 4.**

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

39 **SECTION 5.**

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