

Senate Bill 148

By: Senators Carter of the 1st and Jackson of the 2nd

AS PASSED

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend an Act completely revising the laws relative to the governing authority of Chatham
2 County, approved March 29, 1984 (Ga. L. 1984, p. 5050), as amended, particularly by an Act
3 approved March 30, 1990 (Ga. L. 1990, p. 3992), so as to remove the term limitations on the
4 office of chairperson; to conform the residency requirement for chairperson to general law;
5 to provide for related matters; to provide a referendum; to provide for effective dates and
6 automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 An Act completely revising the laws relative to the governing authority of Chatham County,
10 approved March 29, 1984 (Ga. L. 1984, p. 5050), as amended, particularly by an Act
11 approved March 30, 1990 (Ga. L. 1990, p. 3992), is amended by revising subsection (a) of
12 Section 2 as follows:

13 "(a) The chairperson shall be elected by a majority of the qualified electors of Chatham
14 County voting from the county at large. In order to be eligible to offer for election to such
15 office, a candidate shall have been a resident and qualified elector of Chatham County for
16 at least 12 months prior to the general election at which such candidate offers for election;
17 and a candidate shall be at least 25 years of age upon taking office. A candidate elected
18 to the office of chairperson shall take office on the first business day of January
19 immediately following his or her election and shall serve for a term of four years and until
20 his or her successor is elected and qualified."

21 **SECTION 2.**

22 Unless prohibited by the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, the election
23 superintendent of Chatham County shall call and conduct an election as provided in this
24 section for the purpose of submitting this Act to the electors of Chatham County for approval
25 or rejection. The election superintendent shall conduct that election on the Tuesday next

26 following the first Monday in November, 2011, and shall issue the call and conduct that
 27 election as provided by general law. The election superintendent shall cause the date and
 28 purpose of the election to be published once a week for two weeks immediately preceding
 29 the date thereof in the official organ of Chatham County. The ballot shall have written or
 30 printed thereon the words:

31 "() YES Shall the Act be approved which removes the term limitations on the office
 32 () NO of chairperson of the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County?"

33 All persons desiring to vote for approval of the Act shall vote "Yes," and those persons
 34 desiring to vote for rejection of the Act shall vote "No." If more than one-half of the votes
 35 cast on such question are for approval of the Act, Section 1 of this Act shall become of full
 36 force and effect on January 1, 2012. If the Act is not so approved or if the election is not
 37 conducted as provided in this section, Section 1 of this Act shall not become effective and
 38 this Act shall be automatically repealed on the first day of January immediately following
 39 that election date. The expense of such election shall be borne by Chatham County. It shall
 40 be the election superintendent's duty to certify the result thereof to the Secretary of State.

41 **SECTION 3.**

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

44 **SECTION 4.**

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