

House Bill 552 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

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 and the probate judge of the probate court of Jackson County shall
3 be nonpartisan elections; to provide for submission of this Act for preclearance under the
4 federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to provide for related matters; to repeal
5 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

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

14 **SECTION 2.**

15 Nothing in this Act shall affect the term of office of the chief magistrate judge of the
16 magistrate court of Jackson County or the probate judge of the probate court of Jackson
17 County in office on January 1, 2012. The sitting chief magistrate judge and probate judge
18 shall serve out the terms of office for which they were elected and shall be eligible to succeed
19 themselves as provided in this Act.

20 **SECTION 3.**

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

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SECTION 4.

26 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.