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House Bill 883

By: Representative Shaw of the 176<sup>th</sup>

## A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

- 1 To amend an Act creating a board of commissioners for Lanier County, approved March 7,
- 2 1933 (Ga. L. 1933, p. 602), as amended, particularly by an Act approved April 3, 2002
- 3 (Ga. L. 2002, p. 3736), so as to revise the districts for the election of members of the board
- 4 of commissioners; to provide for definitions and inclusions; to provide for the manner of
- 5 election; to provide for the continuation in office of current members; to provide for
- 6 submission of this Act for preclearance pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights
- 7 Act of 1965, as amended; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
- 8 other purposes.

## 9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 SECTION 1.

- 11 An Act creating a board of commissioners for Lanier County, approved March 7, 1933
- 12 (Ga. L. 1933, p. 602), as amended, particularly by an Act approved April 3, 2002
- 13 (Ga. L. 2002, p. 3736), is amended by striking Section 1 in its entirety and inserting in lieu
- 14 thereof a new Section 1 to read as follows:
- 15 "SECTION 1.
- 16 (a) The Board of Commissioners of Lanier County shall be composed of five members.
- 17 Except for the chairperson, the members of the board shall be residents of the
- commissioner districts they represent and shall be elected by the qualified electors voting
- 19 within their respective commissioner districts. The chairperson shall be a resident of
- 20 Lanier County and shall be elected by the qualified voters of the entire county.
- 21 (b) For the purpose of electing four members of the board from commissioner districts,
- Lanier County shall be divided into four commissioner districts. One member of the board
- shall be elected from each such district. Those districts shall be and correspond to those
- four numbered districts described in and attached to and made a part of this Act and further
- identified as 'Plan: lanierccsb-2012 Plan Type: local Administrator: lanier User: bak'.

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(c)(1) For the purposes of such plan:

(A) The term 'VTD' shall mean and describe the same geographical boundaries as provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of Georgia. The separate numeric designations in a district description which are underneath a 'VTD' heading shall mean and describe individual Blocks within a VTD as provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of Georgia; and

- (B) Except as otherwise provided in the description of any district, whenever the description of any district refers to a named city, it shall mean the geographical boundaries of that city as shown on the census maps for the United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of Georgia.
- (2) Any part of Lanier County which is not included in any district described in subsection (b) of this section shall be included within that district contiguous to such part which contains the least population according to the United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of Georgia.
- (3) Any part of Lanier County which is described in subsection (b) of this section as being included in a particular district shall nevertheless not be included within such district if such part is not contiguous to such district. Such noncontiguous part shall instead be included within that district contiguous to such part which contains the least population according to the United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of Georgia."

**SECTION 2.** 

Said Act is further amended by striking Section 3 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Section 3 to read as follows:

50 "SECTION 3.

(a) In the event that any member elected from a district ceases to be a resident of his or her respective commissioner district during his or her term of office, a vacancy shall be created and shall be filled in the manner provided in Section 18 of this Act. In all elections conducted pursuant to this Act, each candidate shall designate, at the time of qualifying, the district or chairperson post for which he or she offers as a candidate. All members shall be nominated and elected in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the 'Georgia Election Code,' as now or hereafter amended.

(b) The members of the board who were elected at the general election in November, 2008, shall continue in office for the terms to which they were elected and until successors are elected and qualified as provided in this section. The members of the board

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who were elected at the general election in November, 2010, shall continue in office for

- the terms to which they were elected and until successors are elected and qualified as
- provided in this section.
- 64 (c) The first members of the reconstituted Board of Commissioners of Lanier County from
- 65 Commissioner Districts 1 and 2 shall be elected in the state-wide general election in
- November, 2014. Such members shall take office on January 1 following their election for
- 67 terms of four years and until their successors are elected and qualified.
- (d) The first members of the reconstituted Board of Commissioners of Lanier County from
- 69 Commissioner Districts 3 and 4 shall be elected in the state-wide general election in
- November, 2012. Such members shall take office on January 1 following their election for
- a term of four years and until their successors are elected and qualified.
- 72 (e) The first chairperson of the reconstituted Board of Commissioners of Lanier County
- shall be elected by all of the qualified voters of Lanier County voting in the state-wide
- general election in November, 2012. Such chairperson shall take office on January 1
- 75 following his or her election for a term of four years and until his or her successor is
- 76 elected and qualified.
- 77 (f) Successors to members elected under subsections (c), (d), and (e) of this section shall
- be elected at the state-wide general election next preceding the expiration of such terms of
- office and shall take office on January 1 following their election for terms of four years and
- 80 until their successors are elected and qualified.
- 81 (g) Commissioner Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4 as they exist immediately prior to the effective
- date of this Act shall continue to be designated as Commissioner Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4,
- respectively, but as newly described under this Act, and, on and after the effective date of
- 84 this Act, such members of the board serving from those former commissioner districts shall
- be deemed to be serving from and representing their respective districts as newly described
- 86 under this section."

SECTION 3.

- 88 The Board of Commissioners of Lanier County shall through its legal counsel cause this Act
- 89 to be submitted for preclearance under Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965,
- 90 as amended, no later than 45 days after the date on which this Act is approved by the
- 91 Governor or otherwise becomes law without such approval.

92 SECTION 4.

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

Plan: lanierccsb-2012 Plan Type: local Administrator: lanier

User: bak

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District 002

**Lanier County** 

VTD: 1731 - LAKELAND

District 003

Lanier County

VTD: 1731 - LAKELAND

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District 004

Lanier County

VTD: 1731 - LAKELAND

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