House Bill 757 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Channell of the 116th, Kidd of the 141st, and Hudson of the 124th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating the board of commissioners for Putnam County, approved

2 September 8, 1879 (Ga. L. 1878-79, p. 334), as amended, particularly by an Act approved

3 May 14, 2003 (Ga. L. 2003, p. 3639), so as to change the description of the commissioner

4 districts; to provide for definitions and inclusions; to provide for continuation in office of

5 current members; to provide for submission of this Act for preclearance under Section 5 of

6 the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to provide for related matters; to repeal

7 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

10 An Act creating the board of commissioners for Putnam County, approved September 8,

11 1879 (Ga. L. 1878-79, p. 334), as amended, particularly by an Act approved May 14, 2003

12 (Ga. L. 2003, p. 3639), is amended by revising Section 2 as follows:

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"SECTION 2.

(a) The board of commissioners of Putnam County shall be composed of five members. Except for the chairperson, the members of the board shall be residents of the commissioner districts they represent by at least the last date on which a candidate for nomination in a political party primary may qualify in the year of the election, shall continue to reside in their respective districts, and shall be elected by the qualified electors voting within their respective commissioner districts. The chairperson shall be a resident of Putnam County and shall be elected by the qualified voters of the entire county.

(b) For the purpose of electing the four members of the board from commissioner districts,
Putnam 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

24 those four numbered districts described in and attached to and made a part of this Act and

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LC 28 5955/AP

further identified as 'Plan: putnamcc-2012 Plan Type: local Administrator: putnam cc
User: bak'.

27 (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

34 (B) Except as otherwise provided in the description of any district, whenever the
35 description of any district refers to a named city, it shall mean the geographical
36 boundaries of that city as shown on the census maps for the United States decennial
37 census of 2010 for the State of Georgia.

38 (2) Any part of Putnam County which is not included in any district described in
39 subsection (b) of this section shall be included within that district contiguous to such part
40 which contains the least population according to the United States decennial census of
41 2010 for the State of Georgia.

- 42 (3) Any part of Putnam County which is described in subsection (b) of this section as
 43 being included in a particular district shall nevertheless not be included within such
 44 district if such part is not contiguous to such district. Such noncontiguous part shall
 45 instead be included within that district contiguous to such part which contains the least
 46 population according to the United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of
 47 Georgia."
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SECTION 2.

49 Said Act is further amended by revising Section 3 as follows:

"SECTION 3. 50 51 (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 52 and shall be filled as provided by law. All members shall be nominated and elected in 53 accordance with the provisions of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the 'Georgia 54 Election Code,' as now or hereafter amended. 55 (b) The members of the board holding office on the effective date of this section and any 56 persons selected to fill vacancies in such offices shall serve out the terms of office to which 57 58 they were elected and until their successors are elected and qualified.

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(c) The first members of the board elected under this Act shall be elected in the general
election in November, 2012. Such members shall take office on January 1 following their
election for terms of four years and until their successors are elected and qualified.

(d) The first chairperson of the board elected under this Act shall be elected in the general
election in November, 2012. Such chairperson shall take office on January 1 following his
or her election for a term of four years and until his or her successor is elected and
qualified.

66 (e) Successors to members and the chairperson elected under subsections (c) and (d) of this

67 section shall be elected at the 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 yearsand until their successors are elected and qualified.

(f) Commissioner Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4 as they exist immediately prior to the effective date of this section shall continue to be designated as Commissioner Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4, respectively, but as newly described under Section 2 of this Act, and, on and after the effective date of this section, such members of the board serving from those former commissioner districts shall be deemed to be serving from and representing their respective

75 districts as newly described under Section 2 of this Act."

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SECTION 3.

77 The Board of Commissioners of Putnam County shall through its legal counsel cause this Act

to be submitted for preclearance under Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965,

as amended, not later than 45 days after the date on which this Act is approved by the

80 Governor or otherwise becomes law without such approval.

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SECTION 4.

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

Plan: putnamcc-2012 Plan Type: local Administrator: putnam cc User: bak

District 004 Putnam County VTD: 2374A - 4A VTD: 2374B - 4B