House Bill 709 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Stephens of the 164th and Tankersley of the 158th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

To amend an Act providing for the election of the members of the Board of Education of Bryan County, approved March 16, 1978 (Ga. L. 1978, p. 3774), as amended, specifically by an Act approved September 15, 2001 (Ga. L. 2001 Ex. Sess., p. 290), so as to reconstitute the board of education; to change the description of the education districts; to provide for continuation in office of certain current board members; to provide for election and terms of office of subsequent members; to provide for submission of this Act for preclearance under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to provide for an effective date; to repeal

- 8 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.
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BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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SECTION 1.

An Act providing for the election of the members of the Board of Education of Bryan County, approved March 16, 1978 (Ga. L. 1978, p. 3774), as amended, specifically by an Act approved September 15, 2001 (Ga. L. 2001 Ex. Sess., p. 290), is amended by revising subsections (a) through (d) of Section 1 as follows:

15 "(a) The Board of Education of Bryan County which existed on December 31, 2012, is continued in existence but on and after January 1, 2013, shall be constituted as provided 16 in this Act. The Board of Education of Bryan County so continued and constituted, 17 sometimes referred to in this Act as the 'board,' shall continue to have the powers, duties, 18 rights, obligations, and liabilities of that board as existed immediately prior to January 1, 19 2013. Those members of the Board of Education of Bryan County who are serving as such 20 21 on December 31, 2012, and any person selected to fill a vacancy in any such office shall 22 continue to serve as such members until the regular expiration of their respective terms of office and upon the election and qualification of their respective successors. On and after 23 24 January 1, 2013, the Board of Education of Bryan County shall consist of seven members, five of whom shall be elected from education districts described in subsection (b) of this 25

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section and two of whom shall be elected at large as provided in subsection (b) of thissection.

28 (b)(1) For the purpose of electing the members of the board of education, there shall be 29 seven member posts on the board. The member elected to Post 1 shall be the chairperson of the board and shall be elected from the county school district at large by the qualified 30 31 voters of the entire county school district. The member elected to Post 2 shall be the vice 32 chairperson of the board and shall be elected from the county school district at large by 33 the qualified voters of the entire county school district. The member elected to Post 3 34 shall be a resident of Education District 1 and shall be elected by the qualified voters residing within Education District 1. The member elected to Post 4 shall be a resident of 35 Education District 2 and shall be elected by the qualified voters residing within Education 36 District 2. The member elected to Post 5 shall be a resident of Education District 5 and 37 shall be elected by the qualified voters residing within Education District 5. The member 38 39 elected to Post 6 shall be a resident of Education District 3 and shall be elected by the 40 qualified voters residing within Education District 3. The member elected to Post 7 shall be a resident of Education District 4 and shall be elected by the qualified voters residing 41 42 within Education District 4. Candidates for election to the board shall designate the 43 numbered post on the board for which they offer as a candidate.

44 (2)(A) For purposes of electing members of the board of education, other than the
45 chairperson and vice chairperson, the Bryan County School District is divided into five
46 education districts. The five education districts shall be and correspond to those five
47 numbered districts described in and attached to and made a part of this Act and further
48 identified as Plan: bryanccsb-2011re1 Plan Type: Local User: bak.

49 (B) When used in such attachment, the term 'VTD' (voting tabulation district) shall 50 mean and describe the same geographical boundaries as provided in the report of the 51 Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of 52 Georgia. The separate numeric designations in a district description which are underneath a 'VTD' heading shall mean and describe individual Blocks within a VTD 53 54 as provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of Georgia. Any part of the Bryan County School District 55 which is not included in any such district described in that attachment shall be included 56 within that district contiguous to such part which contains the least population 57 according to the United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of Georgia. Any 58 59 part of the Bryan County School District which is described in that attachment as being 60 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 61 62 within that district contiguous to such part which contains the least population

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according to the United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of Georgia.
Except as otherwise provided in the description of any education district, whenever the
description of such district refers to a named city, it shall mean the geographical
boundaries of that city as shown on the census map for the United States decennial
census of 2010 for the State of Georgia.

(c)(1) No person shall be a member of the board if that person is ineligible for such
office pursuant to Code Sections 45-2-1 and 20-2-51 of the O.C.G.A. or any other general
law applicable to that office.

71 (2) In order to be elected as a member of the board from an education district, a person 72 must receive the number of votes cast as required by general law for that office in that 73 district only. Only electors who are residents of that education district may vote for a 74 member of the board for that district. At the time of qualifying for election as a member 75 of the board from a post, each candidate for such office shall specify the post and 76 education district, where applicable, for which that person is a candidate. A person 77 elected or appointed as a member of the board from an education district must continue to reside in that district during that person's term of office or that office shall become 78 79 vacant. The member of the board who is chairperson of the board and the member of the 80 board who is vice chairperson of the board may reside anywhere within the Bryan County 81 School District and, if elected, must receive the number of votes cast for that office as 82 required by general law in the entire school district. The chairperson and vice 83 chairperson must continue to reside within the school district during that person's term 84 of office or that office shall become vacant.

(d)(1) The members of the reconstituted Board of Education of Bryan County shall be 85 elected as provided in this subsection. Posts 1 through 7, as they exist on December 31, 86 87 2012, shall continue to be designated as Posts 1 through 7, respectively, but as newly 88 described under this Act, and on and after January 1, 2013, such members of the board 89 serving from those former posts shall be deemed to be serving from and representing their 90 respective posts as newly described under this section. The members serving from Posts 91 1, 3, 5, and 7 on December 31, 2012, shall serve the remainder of their respective terms 92 which shall expire December 31, 2014, and until their respective successors are duly 93 elected and qualified. The members serving from Posts 2, 4, and 6 on December 31, 94 2012, shall serve the remainder of their respective terms which shall expire December 31, 95 2012, and until their respective successors are duly elected and qualified. Thereafter, all members shall be elected in the November general election immediately preceding the 96 97 expiration of their respective terms of office and shall take office on the first day of 98 January following their election for a term of office of four years each and until their 99 respective successors are duly elected and qualified. All members of the board who are

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100 elected thereto shall be nominated and elected in accordance with Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the 'Georgia Election Code.' 101 102 (2) Education Districts 1 through 5, as they exist on December 31, 2012, shall continue 103 to be designated as Education Districts 1 through 5, respectively, but as newly described under this Act, and on and after January 1, 2013, such members of the board serving from 104 105 those former education districts shall be deemed to be serving from and representing their respective districts as newly described under this Act." 106 107 **SECTION 2.** Said Act is further amended by repealing the attachment thereto containing the former 108 descriptions of education districts which is identified as Plan Name: bryanccsbwk6 Plan 109 Type: LOCAL User: PaulH Administrator: Bryan. 110 111 **SECTION 3.**

The Board of Education of Bryan County shall through its legal counsel cause this Act to be submitted for preclearance under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; and such submission shall be made to the United States Department of Justice or filed with the appropriate court no later than 45 days after the date on which this Act is approved by the Governor or otherwise becomes law without such approval.

- This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming lawwithout such approval.
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SECTION 5.

SECTION 4.

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

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