House Bill 973
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 members of the Board of Commissioners of
Bryan County, approved April 12, 1982 (Ga. L. 1982, p. 4270), as amended, so as to
reconstitute the board of commissioners; to change the description of the commissioner
districts; to provide for definitions and inclusions; to provide for continuation in office of
current members; to provide for submission of this Act for approval under the federal Voting
Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to provide for effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws;
and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

An Act providing for the election of members of the Board of Commissioners of Bryan
County, approved April 12, 1982 (Ga. L. 1982, p. 4270), as amended, is amended by striking
subsections (b) and (c) of Section 1 and inserting in their place the following:

"(b) For purposes of electing members of the board of commissioners, other than the
chairperson, Bryan County is divided into five commissioner districts. One member of the
board shall be elected from each such district. The five commissioner districts shall be and
correspond to those five numbered districts described in and attached to and made a part
of this Act and further identified as 'Plan: bryancesb-2011rel Plan Type: Local User: bak'.

(c)(1) When used in such attachment, 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.

(2) 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. Any part of Bryan County which is not included in any such district
described in that attachment shall be included within that district contiguous to such part

H. B. 973
- 1 -
which contains the least population according to the United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of Georgia.

(3) Any part of Bryan County which is described in that attachment as being 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.

(4) Except as otherwise provided in the description of any 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.”

SECTION 2.

The Board of Commissioners 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 in this Act. The Board of Commissioners of Bryan County so continued and constituted shall continue to have the powers, duties, rights, obligations, and liabilities of that board as it existed immediately prior to January 1, 2013.

SECTION 3.

It shall be the duty of the governing authority of Bryan County to require the attorney therefor to submit this Act for approval pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended. The Board of Commissioners of Bryan 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, no later than 45 days after the date on which this Act is approved by the Governor or otherwise becomes law without such approval.

SECTION 4.

The provisions of this section and Section 3 of this Act relating to and necessary for the regular election in 2012 of members of the Board of Commissioners of Bryan County shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming effective without such approval; and this Act shall otherwise become effective January 1, 2013.

SECTION 5.

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