House Bill 803

By: Representative Ralston of the 7th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

1 To amend an Act providing the method of election of the members of the Board of Education 2 of Gilmer County, approved April 10, 1971 (Ga. L. 1971, p. 3471), as amended, so as to 3 change the description of the education districts; to provide for definitions and inclusions; 4 to provide for continuation in office of current members; to provide for election and terms 5 of office of subsequent 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 6 7 conflicting laws; and for other purposes. 8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA: 9 **SECTION 1.** 10 An Act providing the method of election of the members of the Board of Education of 11 Gilmer County, approved April 10, 1971 (Ga. L. 1971, p. 3471), as amended, is amended by 12 striking Section 1 of said Act and inserting in its place the following: 13 "SECTION 1. 14 (a) The Board of Education of Gilmer county shall be composed of five members to be elected as provided in this Act. For purposes of electing members of the board of 15 16 education, the Gilmer County School District is divided into five education districts. The 17 five education districts shall be and correspond to those five numbered districts described 18 in and attached to and made a part of this Act and further identified as 'Plan: gilmersb-2012 Plan Type: Local Administrator: Gilmer SB User: Gina'. 19 20 (b)(1) When used in such attachment, the term 'VTD' (voting tabulation district) shall mean and describe the same geographical boundaries as provided in the report of the 21 Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of 22 23 Georgia. (2) The separate numeric designations in a district description which are underneath a 24 25 VTD heading shall mean and describe individual Blocks within a VTD as provided in the H. B. 803

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report of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2010 for the
State of Georgia. Any part of the Gilmer County School District which is not included
in any such district described in that attachment 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 the Gilmer County School District 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 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
- 39 of 2010 for the State of Georgia.

40 (c) The board of education shall be composed of one member from each education district.

41 Any person, in order to be eligible for membership on the board to represent an education

42 district, must reside in the education district which he or she represents. Each member

43 from an education district shall be elected and voted on by the voters of the entire Gilmer

44 County School District."

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SECTION 2.

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46 Said Act is further amended by striking Section 2 of said Act and inserting in its place the47 following:

49 (a) Those members of the Board of Education of Gilmer County who are serving as such on December 31, 2012, and any person selected to fill a vacancy in any such office shall 50 continue to serve as such members until the regular expiration of their respective terms of 51 52 office and upon the election and qualification of their respective successors. Education Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, as they exist on December 31, 2012, shall continue to be 53 designated as Education Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, respectively, but as newly described 54 under this Act, and on and after January 1, 2013, such members of the board serving from 55 those former education districts shall be deemed to be serving from and representing their 56 respective districts as newly described under this Act. 57

(b)(1) Successors to the members of the board of education from Education Districts 4
and 5 whose terms expire December 31, 2014, shall be elected in a nonpartisan election
in 2014. They shall take office on the first day of January immediately following their

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election for terms of four years and until their successors are elected and qualified.
Thereafter, future successors shall be elected at the nonpartisan election immediately
preceding the expiration of their terms of office and shall take office on the first day of
January immediately following their election for terms of four years and until their
successors are elected and qualified.

(2) Successors to the members of the board of education from Education Districts 1, 2, 66 67 and 3 whose terms expire December 31, 2012, shall be elected in a nonpartisan election in 2012. They shall take office on the first day of January immediately following their 68 69 election for terms of four years and until their successors are elected and qualified. 70 Thereafter, future successors shall be elected at the nonpartisan election immediately 71 preceding the expiration of their terms of office and shall take office on the first day of 72 January immediately following their election for terms of four years and until their 73 successors are elected and qualified.

(c) Members of the board of education shall be elected at nonpartisan elections to be held
 and conducted as provided in Code Sections 21-2-139 and 21-2-284.1 and other applicable

- 76 provisions of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., known as the 'Georgia Election Code.'"
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SECTION 3.

The Board of Education of Gilmer 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

- 82 Governor or otherwise becomes law without such approval.
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SECTION 4.

This section and Section 3 of this Act and those provisions of this Act necessary for the election of members of the Board of Education of Gilmer County in 2012 shall become effective upon the approval of this Act by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval. The remaining provisions of this Act shall become effective January 1, 2013.

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SECTION 5.

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

VTD: 12310 - ELLIJAY NORTH 080200: 1112 1113 1115 2056 2059 2078 2079 2082 2084 2086 080300: $1000 \ 1001 \ 1002 \ 1003 \ 1004 \ 1005 \ 1006 \ 1007 \ 1008 \ 1009 \ 1010 \ 1011$ $1016 \ 1017 \ 1020 \ 1021 \ 1082 \ 1083 \ 1084 \ 2000 \ 2001 \ 2002 \ 2003 \ 2004$
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