

Senate Bill 507

By: Senators Sims of the 12th, Seay of the 34th, Crosby of the 13th and Hooks of the 14th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act to amend, consolidate, and supersede the several Acts of the General
2 Assembly of the State of Georgia, pertaining to the City of Dawson in the County of Terrell,
3 and to provide a new charter therefore, approved March 21, 1970 (Ga. L. 1970, p. 3121), as
4 amended, so as to change the terms of the mayor and city councilmembers; to provide for
5 submission of this Act for preclearance under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as
6 amended; to provide for a referendum; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting
7 laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 An Act to amend, consolidate, and supersede the several Acts of the General Assembly of
11 the State of Georgia, pertaining to the City of Dawson in the County of Terrell, and to
12 provide a new charter therefore, approved March 21, 1970 (Ga. L. 1970, p. 3121), as
13 amended, is amended by revising Sections 2.2 and 2.3 as follows:

14 "SECTION 2.2.

15 Upon the expiration of the term of office of each council member holding office at the time
16 of the effective date of this section, the term of office of his or her successor shall be for four
17 years. Thereafter, all council members shall serve for terms of four years and until his or her
18 successor shall have been duly elected and qualified. Council members shall take office on
19 the first day of January immediately following his or her election to office. Elections for
20 council members shall be held in the general election in November every two years to fill the
21 staggered terms of office of those councilpersons ending on December 31 of the year in
22 which the election is held.

23 SECTION 2.3.

24 Upon the expiration of the term of office of the mayor holding office at the time of the
 25 effective date of this section, the term of office of his or her successor shall be for four years.
 26 Thereafter, the mayor shall serve for terms of four years and until his or her successor shall
 27 have been duly elected and qualified. The mayor shall take office on the first day of January
 28 immediately following his or her election to office. Elections for mayor shall be held in
 29 November every four years to fill the term of office of the mayor ending on December 31 of
 30 the year in which the election is held."

31 SECTION 2.

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

37 SECTION 3.

38 Unless prohibited by the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, the election
 39 superintendent of the City of Dawson shall call and conduct a special election as provided
 40 for in O.C.G.A. Section 21-2-540 and in this section for the purpose of submitting this Act
 41 to the electors of the City of Dawson for approval or rejection. The election superintendent
 42 shall cause the date and purpose of the election to be published once a week for two weeks
 43 immediately preceding the date thereof in the official organ of the City of Dawson. The
 44 ballot shall have written or printed thereon the words:

45 "() YES Shall the Act be approved that changes the terms of office of the mayor and
 46 () NO city councilmembers of the City of Dawson from two years to four years?"

47 All persons desiring to vote for approval of the Act shall vote "Yes," and all persons desiring
 48 to vote for rejection of the Act shall vote "No." If more than one-half of the votes cast on
 49 such question are for approval of the Act, Section 1 of this Act shall immediately become of
 50 full force and effect. If the Act is not so approved or if the election is not conducted as
 51 provided in this section, Section 1 of this Act shall not become effective, and this Act shall
 52 be automatically repealed. The expense of such election shall be borne by the City of
 53 Dawson. It shall be the election superintendent's duty to certify the result thereof to the
 54 Secretary of State.

55 **SECTION 4.**

56 Except as otherwise provided in Section 3 of this Act, this Act shall become effective upon
57 its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

58 **SECTION 5.**

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