

House Bill 1300

By: Representative Pruett of the 144<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To revise and restate the law relating to the Bleckley County board of education and school  
2 superintendent; to provide for the number of members of the board and the districts from  
3 which they are elected; to provide for eligibility, manner of election, and filling of vacancies;  
4 to provide for a chairperson and vice chairperson; to provide for reimbursement of expenses;  
5 to provide for appointment of the school superintendent; to provide for related matters; to  
6 provide for submission of this Act for preclearance under the Voting Rights Act; to provide  
7 for effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 The purpose of this Act is to revise and restate the law relating to the Bleckley County board  
11 of education by virtue of the authority contained in Article VIII, Section V, Paragraph II of  
12 the Constitution of Georgia.

13 **SECTION 2.**

14 (a) At the general election in 2012 and quadrennially thereafter a total of three members  
15 shall be elected from School Board Districts 1, 2, and 3 for terms of four years. At the  
16 general election in 2014 and quadrennially thereafter two members of the board of education  
17 shall be elected from School Board Districts 3 and 4 for terms of four years. A quorum of  
18 the board shall be three members.

19 (b) For the purpose of electing members of the board of education of Bleckley County, the  
20 Bleckley County School District is divided into five districts. Such districts shall be and  
21 correspond to those five numbered districts described in and attached to and made a part of  
22 this Act and further identified as 'Plan: bleckleysb-2012 Plan Type: local Administrator:  
23 bleckley User: bak'.

24 (c)(1) When used in such attachment, the term 'VTD' (voting tabulation district) shall  
25 mean and describe the same geographical boundaries as provided in the report of the

26 Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of  
27 Georgia.

28 (2) The separate numeric designations in a district description which are underneath a  
29 VTD heading shall mean and describe individual Blocks within a VTD as provided in the  
30 report of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2010 for the  
31 State of Georgia. Any part of the Bleckley County School District which is not included  
32 in any such district described in that attachment shall be included within that district  
33 contiguous to such part which contains the least population according to the United States  
34 decennial census of 2010 for the State of Georgia.

35 (3) Any part of the Bleckley County School District which is described in that  
36 attachment as being in a particular district shall nevertheless not be included within such  
37 district if such part is not contiguous to such district. Such noncontiguous part shall  
38 instead be included within that district contiguous to such part which contains the least  
39 population according to the United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of  
40 Georgia.

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

45 **SECTION 3.**

46 (a) No person shall be a member of the board of education if he or she is ineligible for such  
47 office pursuant to the provisions of Code Sections 20-2-51 or 45-2-1 or any other provision  
48 contained in the O.C.G.A.

49 (b) In order to be elected as a member of the board from a district, a person must have  
50 resided in that district for at least six months prior to the date such person qualifies as a  
51 candidate for election from such district and must receive a majority of the votes cast for that  
52 office in that district only and not at large. Only electors who are residents of that district  
53 may vote for a member of the board from that district. At the time of qualifying for election  
54 as a member of the board from a district, each candidate for such office shall specify the  
55 district for which that person is a candidate. A person elected as a member of the board from  
56 a district must continue to reside in that district during that person's term of office or that  
57 office shall thereupon become vacant.

58 **SECTION 4.**

59 In the event a vacancy occurs in the membership of the board of education for any reason,  
60 such vacancy shall be filled as follows:

61 (1) If the vacancy occurs more than 90 days prior to the date of a general election  
62 preceding the general election at which a successor would be elected for a new full term  
63 of office, then such vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term of office at a special  
64 election to be held on the same date as said general election preceding the general  
65 election at which a successor would be elected to a new full term of office; and in this  
66 case the remaining members of the board of education shall, by majority vote, select a  
67 qualified person to fill the vacancy until the person elected at such special election takes  
68 office; and

69 (2) If the vacancy does not occur more than 90 days prior to the date of a general election  
70 preceding the general election at which a successor would be elected for a new full term  
71 of office, then the remaining members of the board of education shall, by majority vote,  
72 select a qualified person to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term. The individual  
73 so selected must meet the residency requirements as specified in subsection (b) of  
74 Section 3 of this Act.

75 **SECTION 5.**

76 Members of the board of education shall be elected in nonpartisan elections as authorized by  
77 Code Section 21-2-139 of the O.C.G.A.

78 **SECTION 6.**

79 At the first meeting of the board of education in January of each year, the board shall elect  
80 a chairperson and a vice chairperson, each of whom shall be eligible to succeed himself or  
81 herself.

82 **SECTION 7.**

83 Each member of the board of education shall be entitled to reimbursement for actual  
84 expenses necessarily incurred in connection with travel outside of the county on official  
85 business of the board of education, including, but not limited to, attending training sessions  
86 or state-wide meetings; provided, however, that such travel is authorized by a majority vote  
87 of the members of the board of education prior thereto. All expenses shall be approved and  
88 verified prior to reimbursement in such manner as may be specified by the board. Each  
89 board member shall be entitled to participate in any school district group insurance plan to  
90 the extent authorized in Code Section 20-2-55 of the O.C.G.A.

91 **SECTION 8.**

92 The board shall appoint a superintendent of the Bleckley County School System as provided  
93 by Code Section 20-2-101 of the O.C.G.A. The superintendent shall possess the

94 qualifications prescribed by the laws of this state for county school superintendents and shall  
95 be compensated in an amount to be determined by the board. The present superintendent  
96 shall remain in office until his or her successor is appointed.

97 **SECTION 9.**

98 The Board of Education of Bleckley County which existed on December 31, 2012, is  
99 continued in existence but on and after January 1, 2013, shall be constituted as provided in  
100 this Act. The Board of Education of Bleckley County so continued and constituted,  
101 sometimes referred to in this Act as the "board," shall continue to have the powers, duties,  
102 rights, obligations, and liabilities of that board as existed immediately prior to January 1,  
103 2013.

104 **SECTION 10.**

105 The Board of Education of Bleckley County shall through its legal counsel cause this Act to  
106 be submitted for preclearance under Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as  
107 amended, no later than 45 days after the date on which this Act is approved by the Governor  
108 or otherwise becomes law without such approval

109 **SECTION 11.**

110 The provisions of this Act relating to and necessary for the regular election in 2012 of  
111 members of the Board of Education of Bleckley County shall become effective upon its  
112 approval by the Governor or upon its becoming effective without such approval; and this Act  
113 shall otherwise become effective January 1, 2013.

114 **SECTION 12.**

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

Plan: bleckleysb-2012  
Plan Type: local  
Administrator: bleckley  
User: bak

District 001  
Bleckley County  
VTD: 0231 - FAIRGROUND

790200:  
1000 1001 1002 1003 1004 1005 1006 1007 1008 1009 1010 1011  
1012 1013 1014 1015 1016 1017 1018 1019 1020 1021 1022 1023  
1024 1025 1026 1027 1028 1029 1030 1031 1032 1033 1034 1035  
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790300:  
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District 002  
Bleckley County  
VTD: 0231 - FAIRGROUND

790100:  
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790300:  
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District 003  
Bleckley County  
VTD: 0231 - FAIRGROUND

790100:  
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2096 2102 2103 2104 2105 2106 2114 2119

790300:  
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District 004  
Bleckley County  
VTD: 0231 - FAIRGROUND

790100:  
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District 005

Bleckley County

VTD: 0231 - FAIRGROUND

790100:

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