

House Bill 51EX

By: Representative Epps of the 140th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating a Board of Commissioners of Wilkinson County, approved
2 February 28, 1933 (Ga. L. 1933, p. 777), as amended, particularly by an Act approved April
3 25, 2002 (Ga. L. 2002, p. 4487), so as to reapportion the commissioner districts; to define
4 certain terms; to provide for the submission of this Act for preclearance pursuant to the
5 Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to provide for related matters; to provide an
6 effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 An Act creating a Board of Commissioners of Wilkinson County, approved February 28,
10 1933 (Ga. L. 1933, p. 777), as amended, particularly by an Act approved April 25, 2002 (Ga.
11 L. 2002, p. 4487), is amended by striking in its entirety subsections (a) and (b) of Section 2
12 and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

13 "(a) The chairperson of the board of commissioners may reside anywhere within
14 Wilkinson County and shall be elected by a majority of the qualified electors of Wilkinson
15 County voting at the elections hereinafter provided for in this Act. Any person offering as
16 a candidate for chairperson shall have been a resident of said county for at least two years
17 immediately preceding the date of the election and shall remain a resident during the term
18 of office. The chairperson and all other members shall be at least 21 years of age as of the
19 date of taking office. For the purpose of electing the other four members of the board,
20 Wilkinson County shall be divided into four commissioner districts. One member of the
21 board shall be elected from each such district. The four commissioner districts shall be and
22 correspond to those four numbered districts described in and attached to and made a part
23 of this Act and further identified as 'Plan: wilkinsonccsb-2011 Plan Type: local User: bak'.

24 (b)(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 Wilkinson County which is not included in any such
32 district described in that attachment shall be included within that district contiguous to
33 such part which contains the least population according to the United States decennial
34 census of 2010 for the State of Georgia.

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

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

44 **SECTION 2.**

45 Said Act is further amended by repealing the attachment thereto containing the former
46 descriptions of commissioner districts which is identified as "Plan Name: wilkinsonwk1 Plan
47 Type: LOCAL User: Gina Administrator: WILKINSON."

48 **SECTION 3.**

49 It is the purpose of this Act to reapportion the districts from which members of the board of
50 commissioners of Wilkinson County are to be elected in the November, 2014, general
51 election and in subsequent general elections, and this Act results from changes in population
52 based on the United States decennial census of 2010. It is not the intention of the General
53 Assembly to affect the membership of current members of the board, their terms of office,
54 or the manner in which their successors shall be elected, and such matters shall remain as
55 provided by law on the effective date of this Act until otherwise amended by law, except to
56 the extent of reapportioning the districts represented by such members.

57 **SECTION 4.**

58 It shall be the duty of the attorney of the board of commissioners of Wilkinson County to
59 submit this Act for preclearance pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of

60 1965, as amended, no later than 45 days after the date on which this Act is approved by the
61 Governor or otherwise becomes law without such approval.

62 **SECTION 5.**

63 This section and Section 4 of this Act and those provisions of this Act necessary for the
64 regular election of members of the Board of Commissioners of Wilkinson County in 2014
65 shall become effective upon the approval of this Act by the Governor or upon its becoming
66 law without such approval. The remaining provisions of this Act shall become effective
67 January 1, 2015.

68 **SECTION 6.**

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