

House Bill 252

By: Representatives Quick of the 117<sup>th</sup>, Williams of the 119<sup>th</sup>, and Frye of the 118<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To provide that future elections for the office of chief magistrate judge of the magistrate  
2 court of Athens-Clarke County shall be nonpartisan elections held at the time of certain  
3 general primary elections; to provide for submission of this Act under the federal Voting  
4 Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date;  
5 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 All elections for the office of chief magistrate judge of the magistrate court of Athens-Clarke  
9 County conducted after the effective date of this Act shall be nonpartisan elections as  
10 provided for in Code Section 21-2-139 of the O.C.G.A. and shall be conducted at the general  
11 primary election immediately preceding the expiration of the term of such respective office.  
12 Such nonpartisan elections shall be held and conducted as provided in Chapter 2 of Title 21  
13 of the O.C.G.A., the "Georgia Election Code."

14 **SECTION 2.**

15 Nothing in this Act shall affect the term of office of the chief magistrate judge of the  
16 magistrate court of Athens-Clarke County in office on the effective date of this Act. The  
17 sitting chief magistrate shall serve out the term of office for which such chief magistrate  
18 judge was elected and shall be eligible to succeed himself or herself as provided in this Act.

19 **SECTION 3.**

20 The governing authority of Athens-Clarke County shall through its legal counsel cause this  
21 Act to be submitted for preclearance under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as  
22 amended, not later than 60 days after the date on which this Act is approved by the Governor  
23 or otherwise becomes law without such approval.

24 **SECTION 4.**

25 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
26 without such approval.

27 **SECTION 5.**

28 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.