

Senate Bill 183

By: Senator Lucas of the 26th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating a Board of County Commissioners of Hancock County, approved  
2 October 5, 1885 (Ga. L. 1884-85, p. 435), as amended, so as to change the description of the  
3 commissioner districts; to provide for definitions and inclusions; to provide for the  
4 continuation in office of current members; to provide for the submission of this Act for  
5 preclearance pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to  
6 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 County Commissioners of Hancock County, approved  
10 October 5, 1885 (Ga. L. 1884-85, p. 435), as amended, is amended by revising subsections  
11 (a) through (d) of Section II as follows:

12 "(a) The Board of County Commissioners of Hancock County which exists on  
13 January 1, 2013, is continued in existence, but on and after the effective date of this Act,  
14 shall be constituted as provided in this Act. The Board of County Commissioners of  
15 Hancock County so continued and constituted, sometimes referred to in this Act as the  
16 'board,' shall continue to have the powers, duties, rights, obligations, and liabilities of the  
17 Board of County Commissioners of Hancock County as it existed immediately prior to the  
18 effective date of this Act and shall be subject to all constitutional and statutory provisions  
19 relating to boards of county commissioners and not in conflict with this Act.

20 (b) For the purpose of electing members of the board other than the chairperson, Hancock  
21 County shall be divided into four commissioner districts. Commissioner Districts 1, 2, 3,  
22 and 4 shall be and correspond to those four numbered districts described in and attached  
23 to and made a part of this Act and further identified as 'Plan: hancockccsb-2013 Plan Type:  
24 Local Administrator: Hancock User: bak'. The chairperson shall be elected by the  
25 electors of the entire county.

26 (c)(1) For the purposes of such plan:

27 (A) The term 'VTD' shall mean and describe the same geographical boundaries as  
 28 provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial  
 29 census of 2010 for the State of Georgia. The separate numeric designations in a district  
 30 description which are underneath a VTD heading shall mean and describe individual  
 31 Blocks within a VTD as provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the  
 32 United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of Georgia; and

33 (B) Except as otherwise provided in the description of any district, whenever the  
 34 description of any district refers to a named city, it shall mean the geographical  
 35 boundaries of that city as shown on the census maps for the United States decennial  
 36 census of 2010 for the State of Georgia.

37 (2) Any part of Hancock County which is not included in any district described in  
 38 subsection (b) of this section shall be included within that district contiguous to such part  
 39 which contains the least population according to the United States decennial census of  
 40 2010 for the State of Georgia.

41 (3) Any part of Hancock County which is described in subsection (b) of this section as  
 42 being included in a particular district shall nevertheless not be included within such  
 43 district if such part is not contiguous to such district. Such noncontiguous part shall  
 44 instead be included within that district contiguous to such part which contains the least  
 45 population according to the United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of  
 46 Georgia.

47 (d) Reserved."

## 48 SECTION 2.

49 (a) Those members of the Board of County Commissioners of Hancock County who are  
 50 serving as such on the effective date of this Act and any person selected to fill a vacancy in  
 51 any such office shall continue to serve as such members until the regular expiration of their  
 52 respective terms of office and upon the election and qualification of their respective  
 53 successors.

54 (b) Commissioner Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4, as they exist immediately prior to the effective  
 55 date of this Act, shall continue to be designated as Commissioner Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4,  
 56 respectively, but as newly described under this Act, and on and after the effective date of this  
 57 Act, such members of the board serving from those former commissioner districts shall be  
 58 deemed to be serving from and representing their respective districts as newly described  
 59 under this Act.

60

**SECTION 3.**

61 The Board of County Commissioners of Hancock County shall through its legal counsel  
62 cause this Act to be submitted for preclearance under Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights  
63 Act of 1965, as amended, not later than 45 days after the date on which this Act is approved  
64 by the Governor or otherwise becomes law without such approval.

65

**SECTION 4.**

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