

Senate Bill 263

By: Senator Jackson of the 2nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To provide for a nonbinding, advisory referendum for certain residents of the City of
2 Savannah regarding whether certain property should be deannexed from the corporate limits
3 of the city; to provide for a referendum; to provide for the submission of this Act for
4 preclearance pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to
5 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 (a) It is the purpose of this Act to provide for a nonbinding, advisory referendum for the
9 purpose of ascertaining whether certain electors of the City of Savannah desire to deannex
10 the property described in and attached to and made a part of this Act and further identified
11 as "Plan: savannah-deannex-2013 Plan Type: Local Administrator: S002 User: bak".

12 (b) It is found, determined, and declared that the holding of the nonbinding, advisory
13 referendum provided for in this Act is:

- 14 (1) In all respects for the benefit of the residents of the City of Savannah;
15 (2) A public purpose; and
16 (3) An essential governmental function for which public funds may be expended.

17 **SECTION 2.**

18 Unless prohibited by the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, the election
19 superintendent of the City of Savannah shall call and conduct a nonbinding, advisory
20 referendum election as provided in this section for the purpose of submitting to the electors
21 of the City of Savannah who reside in the territory described in subsection (a) of Section 1
22 of this Act the question of whether such territory should be deannexed from the corporate
23 limits of the city. The election superintendent shall conduct such election on the date of the
24 November, 2013, municipal general election and shall issue the call and conduct such
25 election as provided by general law. The superintendent shall cause the date and purpose of
26 the election to be published once a week for two weeks immediately preceding the date

27 thereof in the official organ of Chatham County. The ballot shall have written or printed
 28 thereon the words:

29 **"NONBINDING ADVISORY REFERENDUM**

30 YES Should the territory described in the Act providing for this referendum be

31 NO deannexed from the corporate boundaries of the City of Savannah?"

32 All persons desiring to vote for approval of the question shall vote "Yes," and those persons
 33 desiring to vote for rejection of the question shall vote "No." The expense of such election
 34 shall be borne by the City of Savannah. It shall be the election superintendent's duty to
 35 certify the result thereof to the Secretary of State.

36 **SECTION 3.**

37 The governing authority of the City of Savannah shall through its legal counsel cause this
 38 Act to be submitted for preclearance under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as
 39 amended, not later than 45 days after the date on which this Act is approved by the Governor
 40 or otherwise becomes law without such approval.

41 **SECTION 4.**

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