

Senate Bill 13

By: Senator Stone of the 23rd

**AS PASSED SENATE**

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

**AN ACT**

1 To provide for a nonbinding advisory referendum for the purpose of ascertaining whether the  
 2 electors of Jefferson County desire the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners to levy an  
 3 ad valorem tax for the purpose of paying for Jefferson County Hospital Authority's services  
 4 and facilities and to retire hospital debt; to provide for legislative purposes and findings; to  
 5 provide for procedures and requirements relating thereto; to repeal conflicting laws; and for  
 6 other purposes.

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

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 (a) It is the purpose of this Act to provide for a nonbinding advisory referendum for the  
 10 purpose of ascertaining whether the electors of Jefferson County desire the Jefferson County  
 11 Board of Commissioners to levy an ad valorem tax for the purpose of paying for Jefferson  
 12 County Hospital Authority's services and facilities and to retire hospital debt.

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

15 (1) In all respects for the benefit of the people of Jefferson County;

16 (2) A public purpose; and

17 (3) An essential governmental function for which public funds may be expended.

18 **SECTION 2.**

19 The election superintendent of Jefferson County shall call and conduct a nonbinding advisory  
 20 referendum election as provided in this section for the purpose of submitting a question to  
 21 the electors of Jefferson County to determine whether a majority of said electors desire the  
 22 Jefferson County Board of Commissioners to levy an ad valorem tax for the purpose of  
 23 paying for Jefferson County Hospital Authority's services and facilities and to retire hospital  
 24 debt. The nonbinding advisory referendum election shall be held on March 21, 2017, and  
 25 the election superintendent shall issue the call and conduct that election as provided by  
 26 general law. The election superintendent shall cause the date and purpose of the election to

27 be published once a week for two weeks immediately preceding the date thereof in the  
28 official organ of Jefferson County. The ballot shall have written or printed thereon the  
29 words:

**"NONBINDING ADVISORY REFERENDUM**

30 ( ) YES Should the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners levy an ad valorem  
31 tax of up to three mills for the purpose of paying for Jefferson County

32 ( ) NO Hospital Authority's services and facilities and to retire hospital debt?"

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

37 **SECTION 3.**

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