

Senate Resolution 7

By: Senator Parent of the 42nd, Jones II of the 22nd, Butler of the 55th, Henson of the 41st, Tate of the 38th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Georgia so as to provide
2 procedures and standards for legislative and congressional reapportionment; to provide for
3 related matters; to provide for submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection; and
4 for other purposes.

5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 SECTION 1.

7 Article II of the Constitution is amended by adding a new Section IV to read as follows:

8 "SECTION IV.

9 LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REAPPORTIONMENT

10 Paragraph I. *Legislative and congressional reapportionment.* (a) *Senatorial and*
11 *representative districts.* The General Assembly at its regular session in the second year
12 following each federal decennial census, by general law, shall reapportion the state in
13 accordance with this Constitution and the Constitution of the United States. The General
14 Assembly shall reapportion the state into a number of congressional districts equal to the
15 number of congressional districts allocated to the state under the United States Constitution
16 and federal law. The General Assembly shall also reapportion the state into not less
17 than 30 nor more than 56 consecutively numbered senatorial districts of either contiguous,
18 overlapping, or identical territory and into not less than 120 nor more than 180
19 consecutively numbered representative districts of either contiguous, overlapping, or
20 identical territory. Should such regular session adjourn sine die without enacting such
21 general reapportionment Act or should the Governor veto such Act, the Governor by
22 proclamation shall reconvene the General Assembly within 60 days in a special
23 reapportionment session which shall not exceed 30 consecutive days, during which no

24 other business shall be transacted, and it shall be the mandatory duty of the General
25 Assembly to adopt a general law reapportioning the state as required by this subparagraph.

26 **(b) Failure of General Assembly to reapportion; judicial reapportionment.** In the event
27 that a special reapportionment session of the General Assembly finally adjourns without
28 enacting a general reapportionment Act or if the Governor vetoes such Act, the Attorney
29 General shall, within five days, petition the Supreme Court to make such reapportionment.
30 Not later than the sixtieth day after the filing of such petition, the Supreme Court shall file
31 with the Secretary of State an order making such reapportionment.

32 **(c) Judicial review of reapportionment.** Within 15 days after the passage of a general
33 reapportionment Act, the Attorney General shall petition the Supreme Court for a
34 declaratory judgment determining the validity of the reapportionment. The Supreme Court,
35 in accordance with its rules, shall permit adversary interests to present their views and,
36 within 30 days from the filing of the petition, shall enter its judgment.

37 **(d) Effect of judgment in reapportionment; special reapportionment session.** A
38 judgment of the Supreme Court determining the general reapportionment Act to be valid
39 shall be binding upon all the citizens of the state. Should the Supreme Court determine that
40 the general reapportionment Act made by the General Assembly is invalid, the Governor
41 by proclamation shall reconvene the General Assembly within five days thereafter in a
42 special reapportionment session which shall not exceed 15 consecutive days, during which
43 no other business shall be transacted and during which the General Assembly shall enact
44 a general reapportionment Act conforming to the judgment of the Supreme Court.

45 **(e) Special reapportionment session; review of reapportionment.** Within 15 days after
46 the adjournment of a special reapportionment session resulting from a determination by the
47 Supreme Court that a general reapportionment Act is invalid, the Attorney General shall
48 file a petition in the Supreme Court setting forth the general reapportionment Act enacted
49 by the General Assembly, or if none has been adopted, reporting such fact to the court.
50 Consideration of the validity of a general reapportionment Act shall be had as provided for
51 in cases of such general reapportionment Act enacted at a regular or special
52 reapportionment session as provided in subparagraph (c) of this Paragraph.

53 **(f) Judicial reapportionment.** Should a special reapportionment session resulting from
54 a determination by the Supreme Court that a general reapportionment Act is invalid fail to
55 adopt a general reapportionment Act as required by this Paragraph or should the Supreme
56 Court determine that the general reapportionment Act that was enacted in such special
57 reapportionment session is invalid, the court shall, not later than 60 days after receiving the
58 petition of the Attorney General, file with the Secretary of State an order making such
59 reapportionment.

60 **(g) Standards for establishing district boundaries.** In establishing district boundaries:

61 (1) No reapportionment plan or district shall be drawn with the intent to favor or
62 disfavor a political party or an incumbent; districts shall not be drawn with the intent or
63 result of denying or abridging the equal opportunity of racial or language minorities to
64 participate in the political process or to diminish their ability to elect representatives of
65 their choice; and districts shall consist of contiguous territory; and

66 (2) Districts shall be as nearly equal in population as is practicable; districts shall be
67 compact; and districts shall, where feasible, utilize existing political and geographical
68 boundaries."

69

SECTION 2.

70 The above proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be published and submitted as
71 provided in Article X, Section I, Paragraph II of the Constitution. The ballot submitting the
72 above proposed amendment shall have written or printed thereon the following:

73 "() YES Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to provide procedures for
74 () NO legislative and congressional reapportionment?"

75 All persons desiring to vote in favor of ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "Yes."

76 All persons desiring to vote against ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "No." If
77 such amendment shall be ratified as provided in said Paragraph of the Constitution, it shall
78 become a part of the Constitution of this state.